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collecting... projecting...

the magic lantern Gazette

and sharing

A CANDLESTICK READING LAMP BY MILLER'S, LONDON.

SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 3

The Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada

www. magiclanternsociety.org

Editorial

Welcome to the Winter issue of the Gazette! Another year is speeding to Christmas and a New Year. A busy time for those who do shows for family and friends as well as for the professionals! We hope you are all fit and well, ready prepared for the Season, whatever your plans.

Jim Vendeland has been kind enough to share with us an article from the Beachwood Buzz magazine in which he and his collection are featured. Many of you will remember Jim's presentation at the Cleveland Convention in 2022 about projecting kaleidoscopes. See the Gazette Issue Volume 34 No. 3 for December 2022 which includes an article by him.

We have had a soft spot for Lecturer's Lamps. Having used an oil powered one on occasions, we find audiences love it when after showing the red light signal (a few times) for the next slide, the slumbering lanternist is awakened by the lecturer frantically pinging the bell!

We were alerted to the toy advertising truck by a fellow collector who spotted it on eBay and thought it might interest us. We were fortunate enough to purchase it and then the fun started. The vendor did not ship to Canada, BUT we had a friend in UK who was due to fly over that year, BUT then Covid hit, BUT after Covid the postal services went on strike and the toy became forgotten. BUT five years later our friend came across it among his belongings and so it has finally arrived and we can share it with you. To our amazement the Lantern Lecture advertising poster attached to it is clear and legible, and refers to an actual lecture - including the date, time, place, lecturer and lanternist! Even the Duchess of Hamilton agreed to preside. *(Nina Mary Benita Douglas-Hamilton, Duchess of Hamilton [née Nina Mary Benita Poore; 13 May 1878 – 12 January 1951] was an English peeress and animal welfare activist. She campaigned for humane slaughter.)*

We would like to thank our contributors to this issue - Karl Link, Brian Rogers, Jim Vendeland and David Evans.

With the end of 2025 approaching, it's time to renew your Society membership to keep those monthly ePubs and the printed Gazettes mailed to you. Annual dues remain at just $ 50 USD for January 1-December 31.

Pay with one click using this QR code and pay with any major credit card, PayPal, Venmo, or ApplePay.

MLS Annual Membership

If you paid your membership last year via PayPal, PayPal Invoices will be issued in December to make this quick and easy for you, just respond to the invoice.

Payments can also be made via PayPal to

secretary-treasurer@magiclanternsociety.org

Or, if you prefer a traditional check – yea! - no money lost in transaction fees - please make your check in US funds to *MLS of US & Canada* and mail to

Ron Easterday, Secretary-Treasurer, 20382 12th Ave NE, Poulsbo, WA 98370, USA.

Thanks for your continued support in 2026

Ron Easterday

Secretary-Treasurer

secretary-treasurer@magiclanternsociety.org

The Board of Directors of the Society would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful 2026.

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President's Message

With the year 2025 coming to a close I would like to thank everyone who has helped the Magic Lantern Society of the United States & Canada in some way so that all of us had the opportunity to enjoy the many pleasures the Magic Lantern still has to offer in these post-postmodern times.

My sincere Thank You to each of you who volunteered or contributed in some way.

For those who may not already know, all our volunteers work for free and without any compensation for their time and efforts.

David & Lesley Evans, the editors of the ML Gazette have once again provided much delightful and interesting reading on many aspects of the Magic Lantern.

Larry Cederblom, the editor of our monthly epub has done an excellent job of giving us a very readable and pleasing publication filled with news and important information. Thanks to Larry we are always up-to-date on what is currently going on.

I also want to thank everybody who wrote articles for the Gazette or contributed in some way to the monthly epub. Please continue to do so. Without your participation our publications would not be as lively and interesting as they are.

Many thanks also go to the members of the Board of Directors whose commitment and work are not much seen but invaluable and necessary to keep the society running. Somebody has to make us pay our dues on time. Ron Easterday is doing a great job, and of course he does a lot more than that. We are fortunate to have him.

And deserving extra special praise are those among our members who willingly volunteer to organize our biennial convention. The time and effort needed to pull off a successful convention is astounding and so is the praise these very generous individuals deserve. For 2026 Janelle Blankenship and John Gallaro have undertaken this task and we are very much indebted to them for what they are doing.

2025 was another year of much Magic Lantern related activities with a large variety of exhibits and shows available to visit and enjoy throughout the year here in the U.S. and elsewhere. The coming year 2026 will be even more exciting. The first important event is the 21st International Convention of the Magic Lantern Society of the U.S. & Canada on April 23-26, 2026, in Toronto Canada. Janelle and John are working on bringing together the best and the latest the field has to offer. Make sure to find the time and plan for a trip to Toronto in April.

And later in the fall the Magic Lantern Society of the UK will celebrate its 50th anniversary. It promises to be another extraordinary event of this very special year.

Wishing you all a Season of Joy and a Happy New Year 2026

Karl Link

President

The Magic Lantern Society of the U.S. & Canada

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Light at the End of the Tunnel

David Evans examines Lecturer's Reading Lamps

"It has before been pointed out that in order to prevent any loss of brilliancy in the pictures produced on the screen, that all lights should be carefully turned down, even if for obvious reasons they be not entirely extinguished. This frequently places the lecturer who is to employ the pictures as his illustration in a dilemma, for unless he be able to deliver the lecture without any reference to his notes, he has to employ a lamp more or less screened, and often to the detriment of the picture produced." So wrote A A Wood in 1875[1].

This dilemma must have been experienced by many lecturers from the very start of magic lantern presentations and many attempts were made to overcome the difficulty.

Reading lamps fall into one of three categories - candle, oil or electricity, candles being from the earliest period.

Wood's own business created an attempt to solve the problem by producing a suitable lamp, Fig 1, "consisting of a light wooden case, large enough to take the usual lecture paper, screened at the sides and with a hinged hood covering about one-fifth of the length, fixed to the back. Underneath this hood (which is provided with a small chimney) is fitted a small lamp, which illuminates perfectly the lecturer's note book. When not in use the sides and ends fold down flat for portability.", Fig 2. No mention is made of how the small lamp and its chimney should be transported without spilling the kerosene.

There were more elaborate versions available. T C Hepworth[2] describes a "lecture lamp that has recently

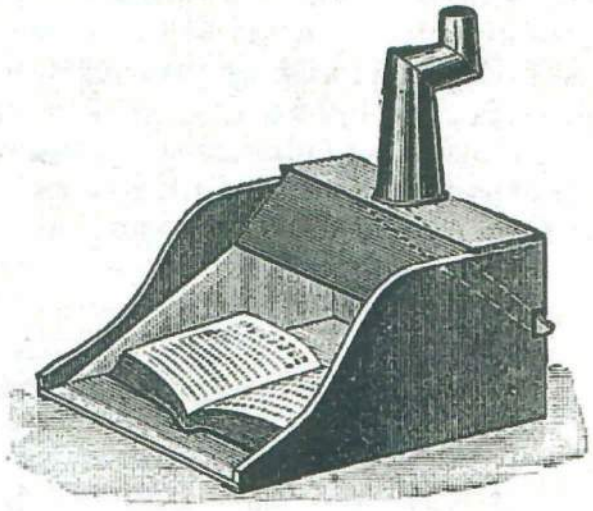


Fig 1: E G Wood's folding reading lamp

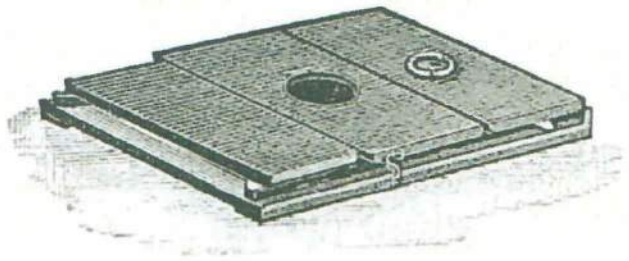


Fig 2: E G Wood's reading lamp folded for transport.

been introduced, which not only comprises a shade light for the lecturer's desk, but has at the back, i.e. the side presented towards the audience, and therefore towards the lantern, a little disc of red glass, which is uncovered by touching a lever (S) at the side of the lamp. (Figs 3 & 4). When the operator sees the little red flame disclosed he knows that a fresh picture is wanted, and should he be inattentive to that signal there is a little gong, B, (Fig 3) below the lamp which can be used on such an emergency." Fig 3 shows the lamp attached to a lecturer's stand with, apparently, a large screw at the base presumably to attach it to a wood floor!

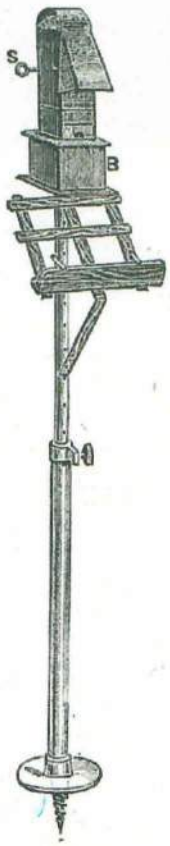


Fig 3: The lamp described by Hepworth

Hughes[3] comments upon reading desks, with lamps, *"of which there are a variety, and it would have been better if some had never been made at all. We never forget trying to hear a lecturer who was placed not six feet away. He was not possessed with an over penetrating voice, and to add to the discomfort of his audience, he had his head inside a box-shaped so called reading desk, into which his voice went, and there it appeared to stay, for very little was heard by the audience."* Hughes goes on to illustrate a similar arrangement (Fig 4) to the Hepworth one, showing his company's Benzo reading lamp attached to a suitable reading stand, this time with folding tripod base. The claimed advantage of this lamp is that the cistern or reservoir, is outside the lamp which reduces all fear of becoming overheated. It again has a colored signal glass and small bell.

188 ADVERTISEMENTS.
HUGHES' PATENT NEW PORTABLE
Reading Desk & Stand.
PERFECTION !
PORTABILITY !
RIGIDITY !
One of the most complete ever invented, made of brass, folds and collapses into a small compass. It will slide to any height to suit Lecturer. The Drawings will show exactly what it is when set up and folded.
Price . . £1 10 0
Ditto . . £1 5 0
HUGHES' PATENT REFULGENT
BENZO READING LAMP
This is the only Perfect Lamp made.
An entirely new form of READING LAMP for burning benzoline or other mineral oils with perfect safety and reliability.
It has the following advantages—
1.—No lecturer need fear failure or smelling out, so common in other reading lamps, the flame will retain its brilliancy as long as the cistern contains spirit, till the very last, without the wick being charred.
2.—The cistern which contains the spirit when filled will last four hours is situated on the exterior of the Lamp.
Directions for Use.—Unscrew the metal cap and saturate in the ordinary way the absorbing material inside the cistern, the residue to be poured out, taking the precaution if spirit is used not to be near a light; Benzoline gives the best light.
Bell and Drawer for Matches.
PRICE 12/6. Ditto with candle, as a Carriage Lamp, 13/6.
COMMERCIAL
READING LAMP,
SIGNAL BELL, EXTINGUISHER, AND MATCH BOX combined.
Price of Lamp, with Signal, Match Box, and Extinguisher - - 7/6 each
Ditto ditto with Bell - - 9/6 ,,
W. C. HUGHES, BREWSTER HOUSE, MORTIMER ROAD, KINGSLAND, LONDON, N.

Fig 4: Hughes advertisement from 1893.

Paul Hasluck[4], writing in 1901, illustrates a "common shape" of lecturer's reading lamp (Fig 5). It can be made of plated brass or japanned tin plate, with a hollow pillar containing a candle, which, as it is burned away, is forced up by a spiral spring at the bottom of the pillar. The shade is fixed on by a bayonet joint and is plated inside so as to reflect the light effectively.

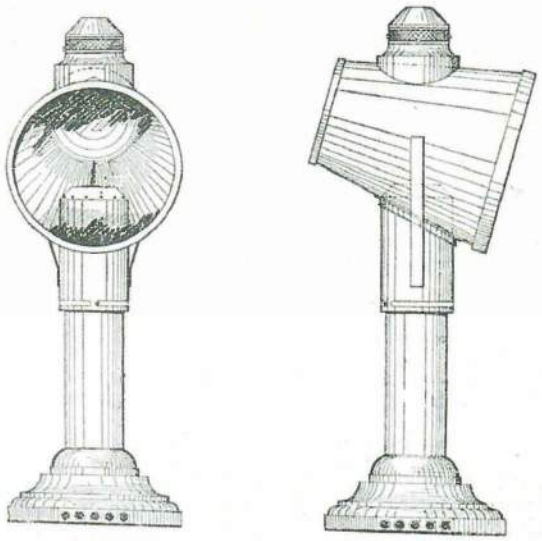


Fig 5: Hasluck's illustrations of a candle lamp

The lamps illustrated by Hasluck were not exclusively used as lantern lecturers' reading lamps. At the time they were referred to as Candlestick Lamps. A typical one would be as Fig 6 and 7 by Barrett and Sons[8] of Piccadilly, London. A similar lamp by Miller & Sons[7], also of Piccadilly, is shown on the front cover.

Fig 6: Candlestick lamp by Barretts of London

Fig 7: The plaque at the base of the Barrett lamp reads 'A Barret & Sons, 63 & 64 Piccadilly, London' together with a crown.

Such lamps were used by anyone who required a little extra light by which to comfortably read their books etc.

One or two candlestick lamps were created or adapted for lantern lecturers. Fig 8 shows an example with a red glass lens covered by a brass lever, obviously for the use of signalling to a projectionist.

Fig 8: An unsigned Lecturer's lamp with signalling lever, quite probably by Riley - compare with Figs 14 & 15.

Lamps specially supplied to lanternists were produced with candle, oil or electric illuminants, depending partly on the period of manufacture. Fig 9 is a tinned steel candle-powered example by Newton, with a thick bevelled glass in front of the candle. The back opens for access to the inside and there is a moveable hood on the front to help direct the light to the lecturer's notes.

Slightly later, lamps similar to the Newton example became a standardised feature of lantern shows. Containing a wick fed from an oil reservoir, a glazed front with pivoting hood, a small box with hinged front to contain matches and a small bell to awaken a drowsy projectionist became standard features.

Fig 9: Candle reading lamp by Newton with pivoted signal lever.

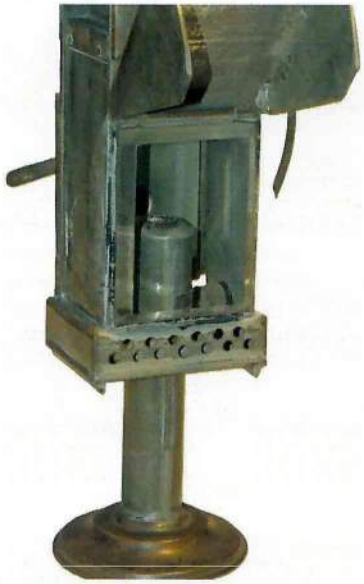


Fig 10: The interior of the Newton candle lamp.

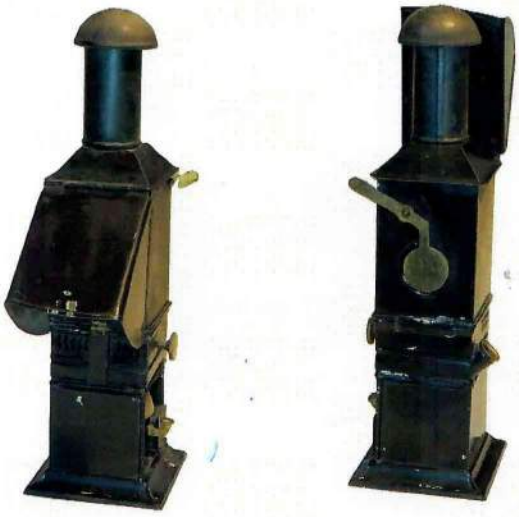
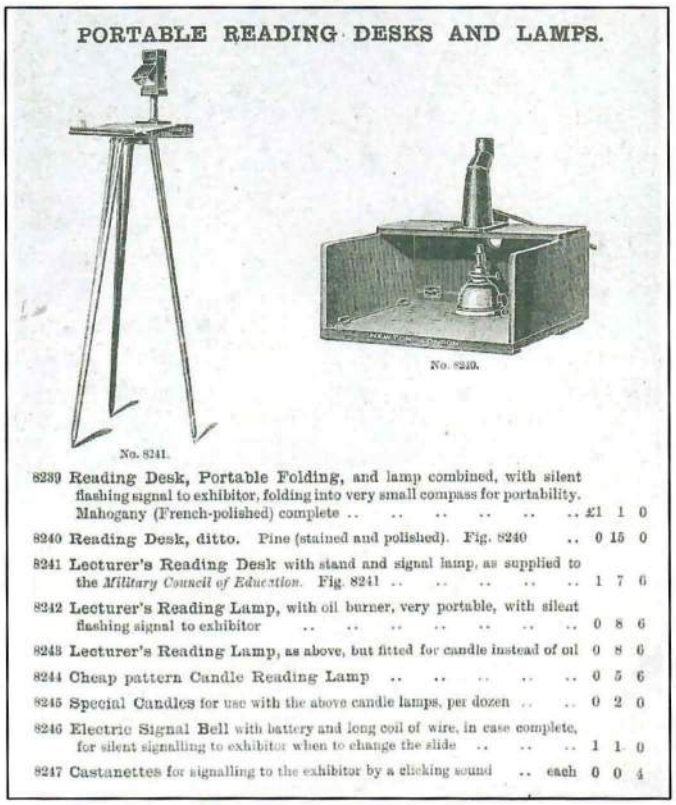


Fig 11: Standardised lecturer's oil lamp

Practically all the usual lantern and slide dealers provided ancillary equipment as well. Newton advertised their reader's lamps in their catalogue circa 1900.



PORTABLE READING DESKS AND LAMPS.

No. 8241.

No. 8239.

8239 **Reading Desk, Portable Folding,** and lamp combined, with silent flashing signal to exhibitor, folding into very small compass for portability. Mahogany (French-polished) complete £1 1 0

8240 **Reading Desk, ditto.** Pine (stained and polished). Fig. 8240 .. 0 15 0

8241 **Lecturer's Reading Desk** with stand and signal lamp, as supplied to the *Military Council of Education.* Fig. 8241 .. .. 1 7 6

8242 **Lecturer's Reading Lamp,** with oil burner, very portable, with silent flashing signal to exhibitor 0 8 6

8243 **Lecturer's Reading Lamp,** as above, but fitted for candle instead of oil 0 8 6

8244 Cheap pattern Candle Reading Lamp 0 5 6

8245 Special Candles for use with the above candle lamps, per dozen 0 2 0

8246 Electric Signal Bell with battery and long coil of wire, in case complete, for silent signalling to exhibitor when to change the slide 1 1 0

8247 Castanettes for signalling to the exhibitor by a clicking sound .. each 0 0 4

Fig 12: Newton catalog showing the more traditional material for lecturers.

Reading Lamps.

No.	Code.		
1830	FEBAF	**Candle Reading Lamp,** takes carriage candles of standard size, in spring tube. Finished black outside, nickelled reflector and red signal - - - -	£0 9 6
1831	FEBEF	**Electric Reading Lamp,** fitted with revolving shutter, by means of which the light may be directed on to the reading matter. Each dry battery gives about 12 hours' light - - - - -	0 10 6
1832	FEBIF	**Refill Batteries** - - - - each	0 1 6
1833	FEBOF	**Spare Bulbs** - - - - - ,,	0 0 6

No. 1831. No. 1834.

Combined Hand and Reading Lamp, reflector fitted on double-jointed bar hinged to battery box. The lamp is fitted with a Battery giving about 12 hours' light.

No.	Code.		
1834	FEBAG	**Combined Hand and Reading Lamp** -	£1 0 0
1835	FEBEG	**Refill Batteries** - - - - each	0 1 6
1836	FEBIG	**Spare Bulbs** - - - - - ,,	0 0 6

NEWTON & CO., 72 WIGMORE STREET, LONDON, W.1

Fig 13: The more modern approach in a slightly later catalog

PORTABLE READING LAMPS.

(A/6)

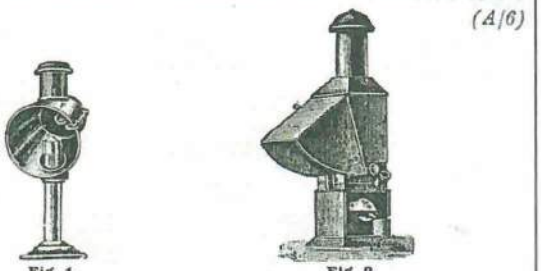


Fig. 1. Fig. 2.

	s. d
Fig. 1—**Candle Lamp,** with Spring to elevate the Candle as it burns away. Nickel Plated	7 6
Fig. 2—To burn Paraffin or any Mineral Oil without any Lamp Glass (Patent). This Lamp is so constructed that it will burn Paraffin Oil instead of Sperm Oil, as in ordinary reading lamps, thus giving a far more brilliant light, and being much cleaner to use, and at the same time requiring **No Lamp Glass,** which is a very great improvement on ordinary paraffin lamps, the glasses of which are so often breaking Price of Lamp, with Silent Signal Bell and Matchbox (in box)	12 6
Tripod Stand, with Reading Desk for above Lamp	20 0

Fig 14: The NZ Bible, Tract and Book Society was Riley's agent in New Zealand.

Fig. 44.

Fig. 45.

LECTURERS' CANDLE READING LAMP.

This convenient lamp gives a good light, and is clean and portable. The candle is kept in position by means of a spring in pillar, the same as in candle carriage lamps. The stem slides into the reflector for convenience of carriage. The lever covers and uncovers a sight hole for use as signal to operator (Fig. 45).

N 177.—**Lecturers' Candle Reading Lamp** **6/0**
(Box and postage, **1/6.**)

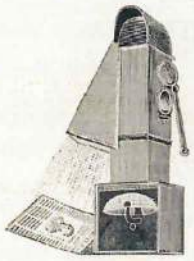
N 177A.—**Extra Candles** ..... per box **1/0**

N 178.—**Lecturers' Paraffin Reading Lamp,** of improved make, with extra strong light, glass front, iron chimney, signal by bell, and shutter ..... Fig. 44 **10/6**

J. H. STEWARD, 406, 457, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

Fig 15: Steward's contribution to illuminating lecture notes.

LECTURER'S READING LAMP



This lamp is constructed entirely of metal, japanned, and is designed to produce sufficient light to enable the lecturer to read without trouble and at the same time not illuminate the hall, as all the light is thrown down upon the book.

The lamp is but 3 inches square and 10 inches long, and therefore very portable.

Price $3 00
Price without bell and flash signal . . 2 50

THE CLICKER SIGNAL

Price . . . . . $0.25.

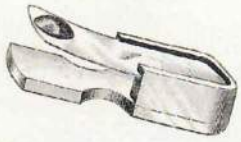


Fig 16: A T Thompson & Co of Boston, MA, included a clicker as well for a mere 25 cents, in case the bell was insufficient.

READING LAMPS, STANDS AND DESKS

The Jewel Reading Lamp and Folding Stand

Frequently when pictures are being shown by the aid of a Magic Lantern, it is desirable to read from a printed book or from sheets of manuscript. To meet this want we offer the "Jewel Reading Lamp" and a folding stand.

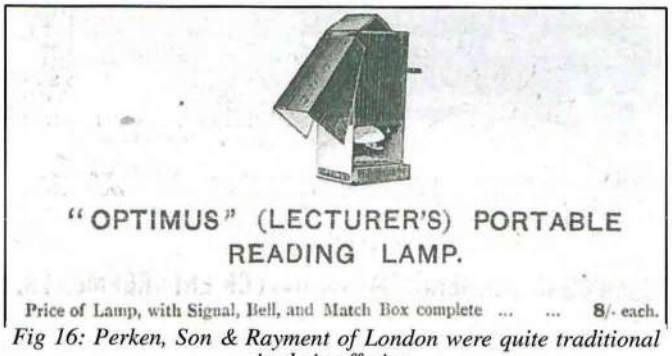
Next to the reader is placed a hinged hood, to throw the light upon the pages to be read, and at the same time prevents it from escaping elsewhere.

On the back of the lamp is arranged a red signal which can be disclosed at intervals by means of a drop shutter operated by the right fore-finger or by pulling a thread. For instance, should the reader disclose the red light once, it would signify to the lantern operator to show the next picture, twice quickly, to show the pictures more rapidly, three times slowly, show slides slower, etc.

The stand accompanying the lamp can be placed on the floor anywhere without injury to floor or carpet. It can be quickly adjusted to conform to the height of the reader.

Price for Jewel Reading Lamp fitted for gas, including gas fixture with dles, and Folding Stand	$4 75
Price for Lamp alone and one dozen candles	3 25
Price for Jewel Readin gLamp fitted for gas, including gas fixture with key and burner, fifteen feet of rubber tubing and folding stand	11 25
Price without the folding reading stand	9 75
Price for Jewel Reading Lamp and Stand, fitted for using Electricity	9 00
Price without the folding reading stand	7 50

Fig 15: M C Lilley advocated a stand-alone reading stand with a gas-powered reading lamp, a bit of a novelty, requiring rubber tubing and a gas cylinder - presumably hydrogen - to add to the complexity.



"OPTIMUS" (LECTURER'S) PORTABLE READING LAMP.

Price of Lamp, with Signal, Bell, and Match Box complete ... ... 8/- each.

Fig 16: Perken, Son & Rayment of London were quite traditional in their offering.

Riley Brothers illustrated similar items in their British, American and New Zealand agent's catalogs.

'The Magic Lantern, its Construction and Use' by a Fellow of the Chemical Society[5], illustrates the 'Optimus' lecturer's portable reading lamp, Fig 16, produced by Perken, Son & Rayment of London. It has the usual signal glass, bell and matchbox.

Andrew Pringle[6] had his own opinion on reading lamps: *"There are many kinds of reading lamps intended for use by the person on the platform. Of course, the object is to throw light on the book or paper without illuminating the screen. By highly ingenious*

Fig 17: Well into the first quarter of the 20th Century, Gallenkamp UK, makers of laboratory instruments, produced an electric reading lamp with incandescent lamp bulb.

Fig 18: Interior of the Gallenkamp lamp.

contrivances of this kind we have never been able to read comfortably, and we have repeatedly been left in darkness during the performance. Since first we used a 'candle shade', kept at most good ironmongers, we have never used any other reading lamp."

NOTES

1. Wood, A A – Magic Lanterns, How Made and How Used, E.G. Wood, London 4th edition, 1891.

2. Hepworth, T C – The Book of the Lantern, London, 1899.

3.'An Expert' (W C Hughes) – The Art of Projection and Complete Magic Lantern Manual, London 1893.

4. Hasluck, Paul N – Optical lanterns and Accessories, How to Make and Manage Them, London 1901.

5. A Fellow of the Chemical Society – The Magic Lantern, its Construction and Use – published by Perken, Son & Rayment, London, 1890.

6. Pringle, Andrew – The Optical Lantern, London 1899.

Lamp makers

7. **Miller & Sons**

Miller and sons were manufacturers of oil lamps with offices at 179 Piccadilly, London. They were registered as "Spermaceti-refiners, Wax Chandlers, Oil-merchants". The company of Miller and Sons was founded prior to 1835, possibly in the 1820s as a successor to F Glossop. George Alexander Miller, who was involved in the business, was awarded patent 6551 in 1834 for an improved arrangement of wicks in an Argand lamp. His brother, Taverner John Miller, a ship-owner and sperm-oil refiner and merchant operated 'Messrs T J Miller & Son' from a wharf on the Thames.

Both companies exhibited at The Great Exhibition of 1851 George Alexander Miller purchased the adjoining 178 Piccadilly in 1857. Horatio William Miller, who was associated with the business died in 1900 and the company moved from 179 Piccadilly in 1907–8. Their father, Charles Taverner Miller (1773–1830), a wax chandler from Middlesex was awarded patent 5896 in February 1830 for certain improves in the making and manufacturing of candles and has a memorial in St James's Church, Piccadilly.

8. **Andrew Barrett & Sons**

Born in Ireland in 1819. He started out as a brush and comb maker at 118 Piccadilly London in 1846. By 1865 his company had expanded to several addresses: 53 Albermarle St, 63 & 64 Piccadilly, 186 Oxford St and 29 St. Georges Pl and Edgware Road. By 1899 his sons had joined the company and expanded the premises further to neighbouring numbers on Albermarle St. The company was a brush and comb maker by trade that expanded into a luxury goods retailer. While A. Barrett & Sons retailed lamps and other silver goods, many of these items were likely manufactured by other firms. The company would stamp the finished product with its name.

Products: They retailed a range of lighting fixtures, including brass hooded reading candlesticks. They also retailed silver novelties and items like traveling food sets, which were stamped with the company's Piccadilly address.

- **Period:** The company operated from the mid-19th century into the early 20th century. Items marked with the Piccadilly address would date from this period, primarily the Victorian and Edwardian eras.
- **Markings:** Items are typically stamped with "A. Barrett & Sons, 63 & 64 Piccadilly, London." The marking may also include a crown.

They held the Royal Warrant in 1913 for supply of luxury travel goods, including lamps.

And various manufacturers' catalogs.

November 2025 • Reprinted with permission.

BeachwoodBuzz MAGAZINE
Every Resident. Every Business. Every Month.

A Vision of Wonder: Jim Vendeland Chronicles Antique Kaleidoscopes

Beachwood resident Dr. Jim Vendeland has spent decades exploring the world through a lens – literally. A retired ophthalmologist, Jim has long been fascinated by the mechanics of sight and the artistry that colors our visual experiences. In recent years, his attention has turned from medicine to one of the most whimsical optical inventions of the 19th century: the kaleidoscope.

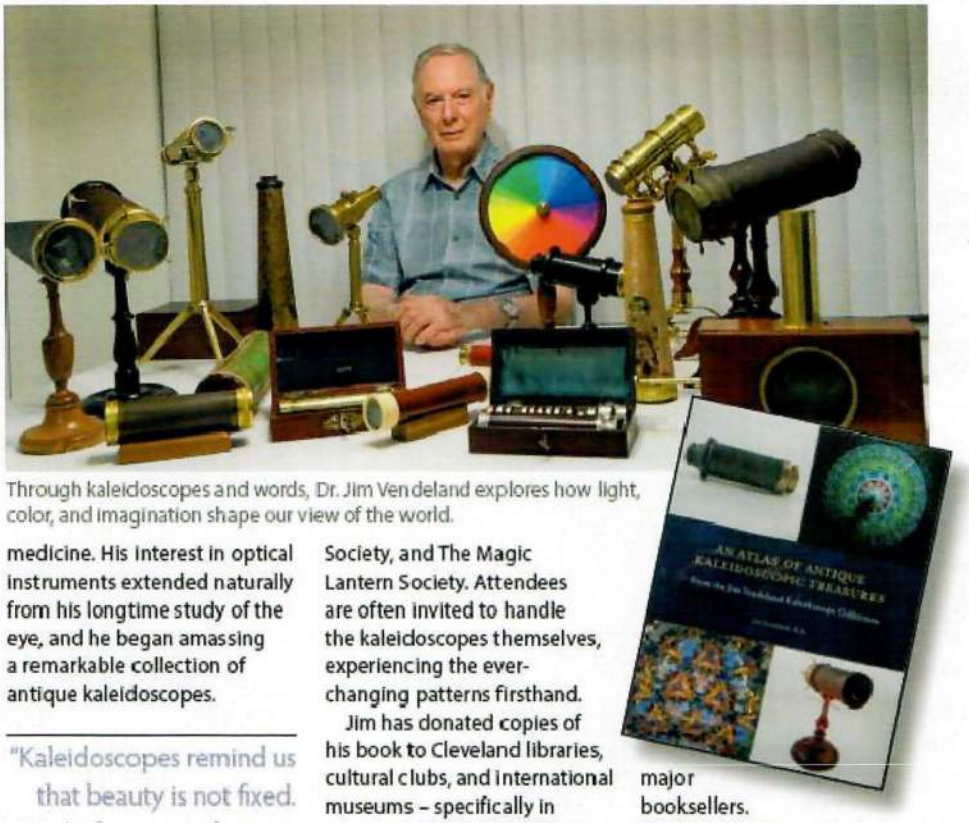
The result is *An Atlas of Antique Kaleidoscopic Treasures: From the Jim Vendeland Kaleidoscope Collection*, a beautiful coffee-table book released in April 2025. This artistic book is a one-of-a-kind tribute to the beauty, craftsmanship, and ingenuity of kaleidoscopes, most dating from before 1900.

"Although many artists today create remarkable kaleidoscopes, I've always been drawn to the originals," Jim said. "They are mechanical marvels, works of art, and pieces of cultural history all at once."

The book takes readers on a visual journey beginning with Sir David Brewster, who popularized kaleidoscopes in the early 1800s, and Charles Bush, whose intricate designs became treasured household items. Jim's collection also includes rare anomalies, from kaleidoscopic spinning tops to Edwardian boxed designs and even kaleidoscopes merged with early projection devices – predecessors of the motion picture.

Early toy kaleidoscopes, though often fragile, receive their own spotlight, reminding readers that these instruments were once intended to entertain the masses in England, rather than merely serve as decorative objects. A trivia section rounds out the book, inviting readers to explore the kaleidoscope's history further – and perhaps consider acquiring one for themselves.

Jim's path to creating this book began over 15 years ago, soon after retiring from medicine. His interest in optical instruments extended naturally from his longtime study of the eye, and he began amassing a remarkable collection of antique kaleidoscopes.



Through kaleidoscopes and words, Dr. Jim Vendeland explores how light, color, and imagination shape our view of the world.

> "Kaleidoscopes remind us that beauty is not fixed. It changes with every turn – just like life."

"No museums expressed interest, so the next best thing was to create a book," he told us. "The project took roughly a year and a half and each page was created with love."

Jim has shared his expertise with collectors, historians, and the general public through presentations at local libraries – including a talk just a few weeks ago at the Beachwood Library. He's also presented at cultural clubs and exclusive societies like The Rowfant Club, The Brewster Kaleidoscope Society, and The Magic Lantern Society. Attendees are often invited to handle the kaleidoscopes themselves, experiencing the ever-changing patterns firsthand.

Jim has donated copies of his book to Cleveland libraries, cultural clubs, and international museums – specifically in Japan. He also submitted his book to the North Street Book Prize Competition in the art book category.

Although Jim has curated collections of ophthalmic instruments used to examine the interior of the eye and rare Russian opera librettos, it is the kaleidoscope, with its shifting patterns and vibrant colors, that continues to captivate him.

"Kaleidoscopes remind us that beauty is not fixed," he reflects. "It changes with every turn – just like life."

Copies of *An Atlas of Antique Kaleidoscopic Treasures* are available through www.BookBaby.com, Amazon, and major booksellers.

For those curious about optical art, historical craftsmanship, or simply the delight of seeing the world through ever-changing patterns, Jim's book offers a rare glimpse into the kaleidoscope's enduring magic.

Jim lives with his wife, Marcia. They have three children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He enjoys playing classical music on the piano and has an extensive collection of classical music and opera on compact discs and DVDs. He also enjoys playing racketball, going out for ice cream, and spending time with his family.

A Riley Brothers Catalog

David Evans looks through it

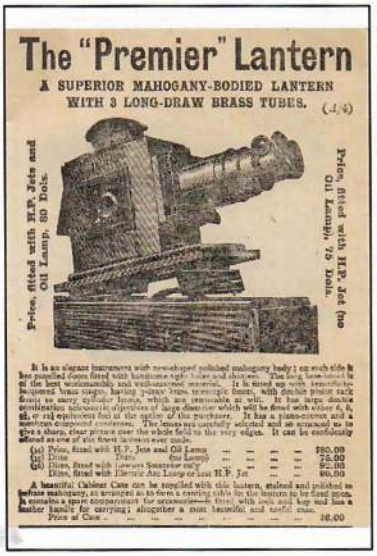
Delving through more of the material acquired from the remains of the Riley Collection (see Gazette Vol 34 No. 2, where Carrie Lenz Thoburn outlines the Riley family history) I came across a tall, narrow catalog of items available from the American branch of Riley Brothers when at their 16 Beekman Street, New York address. They appear to have been at this address from 1894 until 1898. The magic lantern slide and lantern makers J B Colt & Co had been at the same address in 1893.

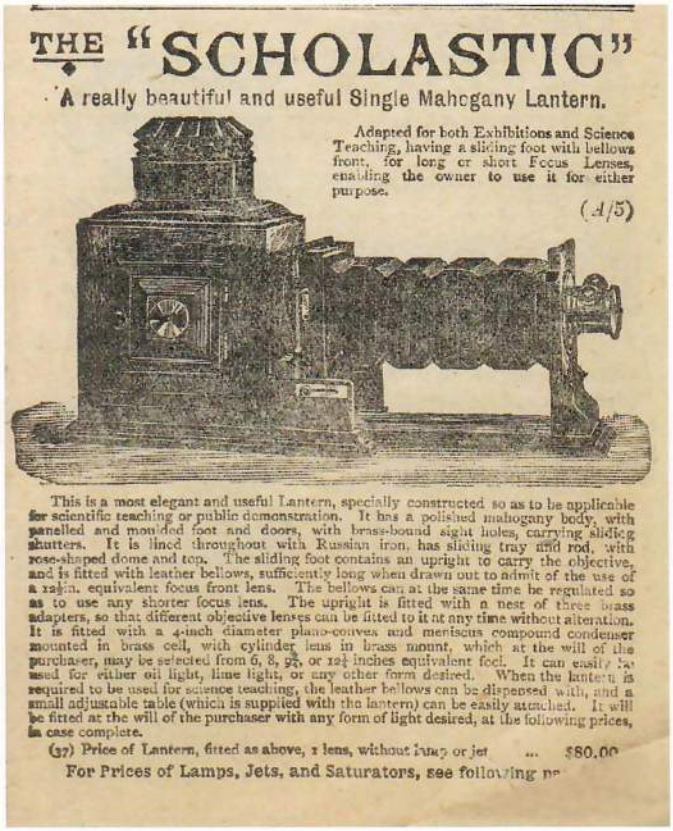
On 5th February 1894 Jean Aimé LeRoy claimed to have projected two Edison Kinetoscope films - *Washing the baby* and *The Execution of Mary Queen of Scots* - to an invited audience of about twenty five in Riley's optical store on 16 Beekman Street but later research questions the authenticity of this claim[1].

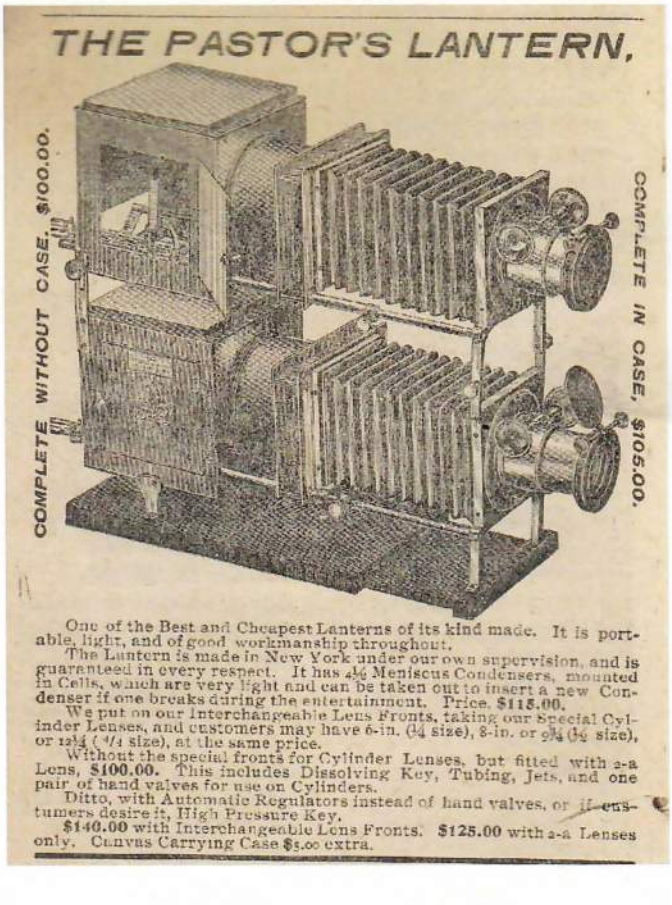
Whether true or not, Riley's acquired the rights to Cecil Ray's Kineoptoscope cinematograph projector in 1896 and proceeded to manufacture the machines and produced 75 foot films to suit them. By 1900 Riley's claimed to be the world's largest magic lantern outfitters, though other firms also claimed this privilege.

Though our catalog commences at Page IX, having lost the first eight pages and the front cover at some point, it is known that Riley's produced a catalog in about 1900 that detailed around 1500 slide sets and a variety of lanterns and other equipment, and we believe this to be the remaining part of a copy of this catalog. The slide set section starts at Page 1 and concludes at Page 226, though there may have been a few more pages at the end, together with a back cover page.

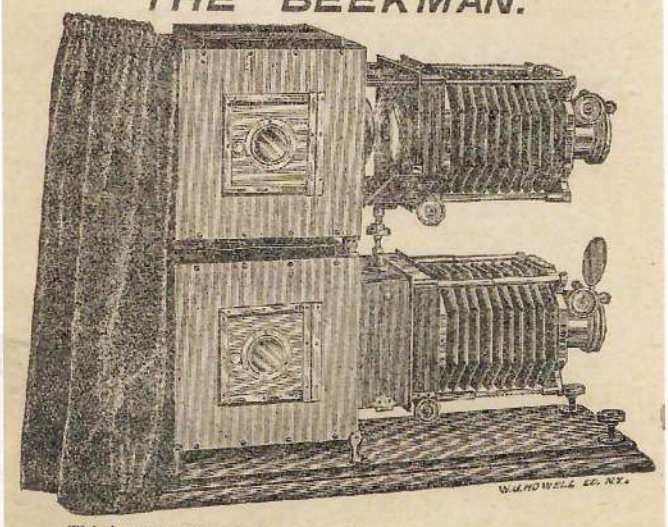
The Premier lantern is shown on Page IX of our catalog. The missing pages no doubt illustrated somewhat simpler and less expensive versions, probably in Russian Iron bodies. Some of the considerable range of lanterns and other apparatus available from the company are illustrated:


The "Premier" Lantern
A SUPERIOR MAHOGANY-BODIED LANTERN
WITH 3 LONG-DRAW BRASS TUBES.
(A/6)
Price, fitted with H.P. Jets and Oil Lamp, 80 Dols.
Price, fitted with H.P. Jet (no Oil Lamp), 72 Dols.


THE "SCHOLASTIC"
A really beautiful and useful Single Mahogany Lantern.
Adapted for both Exhibitions and Science Teaching, having a sliding foot with bellows front, for long or short Focus Lenses, enabling the owner to use it for either purpose.
(A/5)
This is a most elegant and useful Lantern, specially constructed so as to be applicable for scientific teaching or public demonstration. It has a polished mahogany body, with panelled and moulded foot and doors, with brass-bound sight holes, carrying sliding shutters. It is lined throughout with Russian iron, has sliding tray and rod, with rose-shaped dome and top. The sliding foot contains an upright to carry the objective, and is fitted with leather bellows, sufficiently long when drawn out to admit of the use of a 12½in. equivalent focus front lens. The bellows can at the same time be regulated so as to use any shorter focus lens. The upright is fitted with a nest of three brass adapters, so that different objective lenses can be fitted to it at any time without alteration. It is fitted with a 4-inch diameter plano-convex and meniscus compound condenser mounted in brass cell, with cylinder lens in brass mount, which at the will of the purchaser, may be selected from 6, 8, 9½, or 12½ inches equivalent foci. It can easily be used for either oil light, lime light, or any other form desired. When the lantern is required to be used for science teaching, the leather bellows can be dispensed with, and a small adjustable table (which is supplied with the lantern) can be easily attached. It will be fitted at the will of the purchaser with any form of light desired, at the following prices, in case complete.
(37) Price of Lantern, fitted as above, 1 lens, without lamp or jet ... $80.00
For Prices of Lamps, Jets, and Saturators, see following pa


THE PASTOR'S LANTERN,
COMPLETE WITHOUT CASE, $100.00.
COMPLETE IN CASE, $105.00.
One of the Best and Cheapest Lanterns of its kind made. It is portable, light, and of good workmanship throughout.
The Lantern is made in New York under our own supervision, and is guaranteed in every respect. It has 4½ Meniscus Condensers, mounted in Cells, which are very light and can be taken out to insert a new Condenser if one breaks during the entertainment. Price, $115.00.
We put on our Interchangeable Lens Fronts, taking our Special Cylinder Lenses, and customers may have 6-in. (¼ size), 8-in. or 9¾ (½ size), or 12½ (full size), at the same price.
Without the special fronts for Cylinder Lenses, but fitted with 2-a Lens, $100.00. This includes Dissolving Key, Tubing, Jets, and one pair of hand valves for use on Cylinders.
Ditto, with Automatic Regulators instead of hand valves, or if customers desire it, High Pressure Key.
$140.00 with Interchangeable Lens Fronts. $125.00 with 2-a Lenses only. Canvas Carrying Case $5.00 extra.

THE "BEEKMAN."



This is our latest style American Pattern Lantern, and is one of the finest and best Stereopticons ever put on the American market.

The body is of Oxidized Brass of best finish and has the following new and improved points: **First.**—Four Doors, one on each side of each Lantern, containing pretty colored transparencies instead of the usual blue glass sight-holes. **Second.**—The Condensers are mounted in a new and novel manner, allowing the operator to change immediately, during the entertainment, a new lens for a broken one in case of accident, without any break in the lecture whatever; moreover the Condensers will be perfectly light proof and less likely to break, *as there are no rims whatever holding them in place.* **Third.**—Rack and Pinion adjustment for rough focusing instead of the old, clumsy method of drawing out the bellows, irrespective of the Rack and Pinion on the objectives. **Fourth.**—Worm screw adjustment for raising and depressing Top Lantern for getting coincidence of discs. **Fifth.**—Octagonal Bellows, giving lantern an elegant appearance. **Sixth.**—Best Jets and Dissolvers.

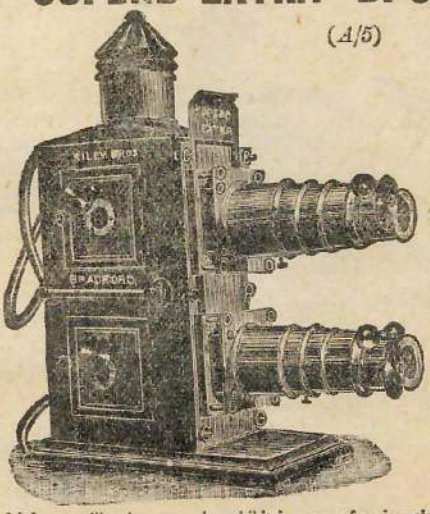
Complete, mounted on Walnut baseboard with raising and depressing gear, Jets, Tubing, Dissolver and Regulators, with Riley Brothers' Double Lens fronts and 6, 8¼ or 10½ objectives, or one pair of Lenses, **$175.00.**

THE "SUPERB EXTRA" BI-UNIAL.

(A/5)

PRIZE MEDAL LANTERN . . . CHICAGO EXHIBITION, 1893.

A superior Lantern combining all the qualities of the "Superb," with the subjoined advantages.



Very useful for travelling lecturers who exhibit in rooms of various sizes. The long draws enable the operator to show from the back of the room.

The body and fittings are as described under the "Superb" Bi-Unial, but this Lantern has Three Brass Telescopic Draw Tubes extending to 12 inches, and is fitted with Double Combination Achromatic Lenses in separate brass cells. Each cylinder is fitted with new shaped hinged instantaneous shutter having grooves to carry slides of coloured glass for tinting, and will be supplied at the will of the purchaser from the following—6-inch, 8-inch, 9½ or 12½-inch equivalent foci, each cylinder having the number engraved upon it. The Condensers are plano-convex and meniscus combined, 4-inch in diameter.

The Cylinders can be changed in a moment without unscrewing the Front.

(45) Price, fitted with H.P. Jets and Dissolvers, and one Set of Lenses **$145.00**

(46) Price, fitted with best H.P. Jets and Dissolvers ... **167.00**

NOTE.—These Lanterns are too shallow to take the Lawson Bi-Unial Saturator, which require a larger and wider Lantern like the "Monarch" next described.

THE "SUPERB" BI-UNIAL.

Prize Medal and Diploma Chicago Exhibition, 1893.

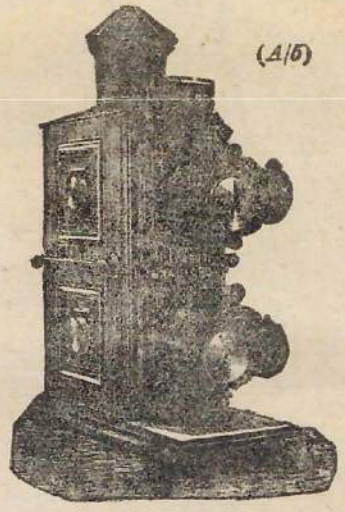
The BEST & CHEAPEST MEDIUM-PRICED LANTERN in the TRADE.

SCORES ARE SOLD EVERY SEASON.

PRICE WITH H.P. JETS, 120 Dols.

(A/5)

PRICE WITH BEST H.P. JETS, 132 Dols.



This Elegant Lantern is one of our chief specialities and may be relied on as an efficient and elegant instrument. The body is of polished mahogany, with moulded foot and four panelled doors. There are heavy brass rail handles on each side, and brass-bound sight holes with sliding caps. The front tubes and stages are entirely of best brass, lacquered and finished in the most perfect style. The condensers are 4-inch diameter, plano-convex compound. There is a brass rolling-curtain diaphragm, with brass stop catches. The objectives are the finest Double Combination Achromatic Lenses, 2-inch in diameter, and 6-inch equivalent focus, with double pinion racks and with grooves to carry coloured glasses. The body is lined with Russian Iron, and the Top and Rose Dome are of the same material. There is thus no "shelling" of the Japan as in most Lanterns.

(43) Price (no Box) fitted with H.P. Jets and Dissolver ... **$120.00**

(44) Price ,, fitted with Best H.P. Jets **132.00**

The "Monarch" Bi-Unial.

Long-Draw Tube Lantern.

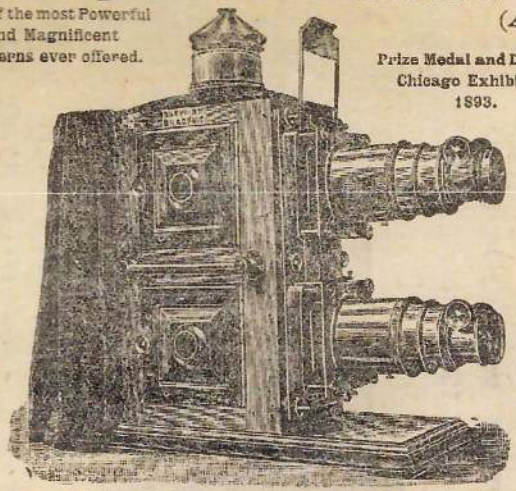
One of the most Powerful and Magnificent Lanterns ever offered.

(A/5)

Prize Medal and Diploma Chicago Exhibition, 1893.

The Largest Sale of any Bi-Unial in the World. Scores sold every Season.

Price (in case) 196 Dols.



As its name implies, this Lantern is at the very head of projecting instruments. Higher-priced Lanterns can be had, with certain luxuries added, but this Lantern cannot be excelled for general finish and efficiency. The body is made of the very finest mahogany, beautifully marked, and is constructed on the truest and most scientific principles. There is a mould of walnut round the base and panels of the doors, which forms a pleasing contrast to the livelier mahogany. The whole of the body is framed and tongued together in most approved style, and no precaution has been omitted to make it absolutely warp and heat-proof. It is highly-polished, and will be a credit to the most fastidious. There are heavy rail-handles and sight-holes with red glass, 4½-inch Plano-Convex and Meniscus Condensers, of superior quality, with one set double combination achromatic front Lenses, 2 inches in diameter, of either 6-inch, 8-inch, 9½-inch, or 12½-inch equivalent foci, fitted in separate cylinders with flasher caps and grooves for tinter glasses, and with the focus in each case stamped on the shutter. There are three long draws to each brass front, more than usually rigid, and allowing of the Lantern being placed at varying distances from the screen to obtain a certain size of disc. The jets are the best oxy-hydrogen high-pressure burners, of superior make and finish. They are scientifically and accurately tested, and the mixing chamber is on a new and improved principle. They are fitted with cog-wheel adjustment for centring purposes. The back of the Lantern is covered by a velvet curtain fixed on a brass rod, which prevents the light from escaping into the room, and the doors are all hung on long hinges. This is our most popular Lantern.

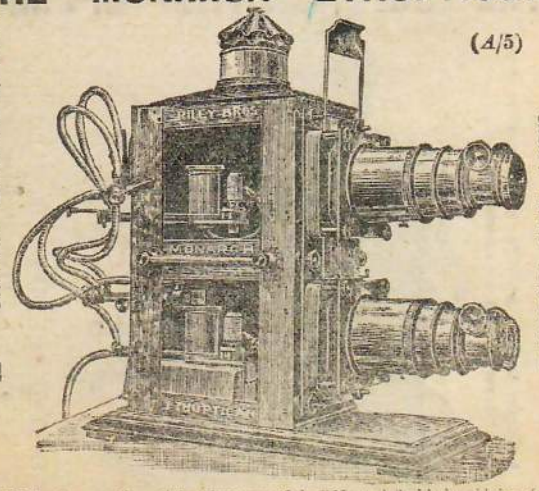
(47) Price, fitted as above described (without Case) **$190.00**

THE "MONARCH" ETHOPTICON.

(A/5)

PRIZE MEDAL AND DIPLOMA, CHICAGO EXHIBITION, 1893.

OUR LEADING LANTERN FOR THE SEASON. CHEAP! SAFE!! POWERFUL!!!



This Lantern combines all the advantages of the "Monarch," with the addition of the "Lawson," which enables the operator to dispense with hydrogen under pressure. The Lantern may be used for either Jets or Saturator, as trays are provided, which run in grooves in the sides of the Russian iron lining, and thus the light is readily interchangeable.

The Lawson Bi-unial Saturator has taken the Lantern World by storm. It must not be confounded with the one first issued. This apparatus is SIMPLE and SAFE to work, and a light of 1600 c.p. can be obtained by its use. It can also be used in single, or side by side lanterns. For further particulars see "Saturators."

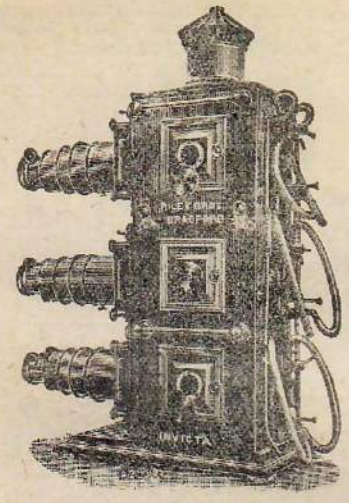
(48) Price, fitted as described above, but with the addition of the New Bi-Unial Saturator, in Cabinet Case, with Lock and Key, $230.00 (Without Case, $225.00.)

The 'Invicta' & 'Invicta' Long Draw Tri-Unial Lanterns.

(A/5)

MEDAL & DIPLOMA, CHICAGO EXHIBITION, 1893.

PRIZE MEDAL LANTERN, 1893.



This is the same Lantern as the Superb Extra **Bi-Unial**, with the addition of a detachable top lantern, with extra base-board and rose top, thus forming a complete single lantern.

PRICES:—

Fitted with 4-inch Condensers (no Case), with 3 High Pressure Jets and Dissolvers ... ... **246 Dols.**

With 3 Best High Pressure Jets and Dissolvers ... **262 „**

Extra for High Pressure Jets, each $7.50 or $13.50.

THE 'CLIMAX'

Triple Rack Telescopic Bi-Unial Lantern.

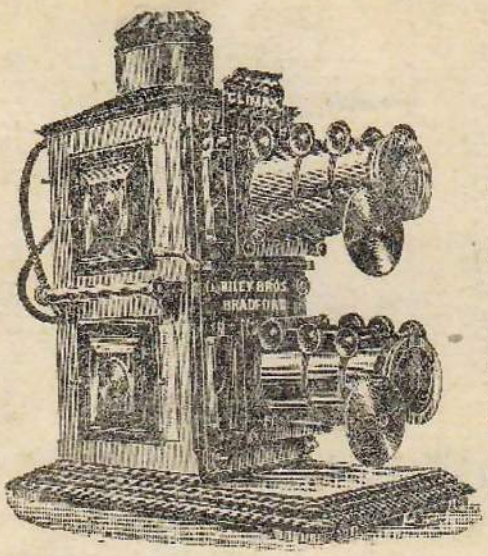
The Summum Bonum of Projecting Instruments.

As used at the Crystal Palace, London, for the purpose of testing the various slides sent in by Competitors. The Lectures and Demonstrations in the large Hall are illustrated by this Lantern.

(A/5)

THIS LANTERN WILL GIVE A GOOD PICTURE 40ft. IN DIAMETER

WILL GIVE A PICTURE OF 1600 SQUARE FEET.



The description of the "Monarch" will answer for the "Climax," with the subjoined modifications:—

This is a Lantern for the Palace—beauty in Bi-unials can go no higher. The corners are bevelled and inlaid with rosewood, and there are rosewood mouldings and panels. There are tinter openings behind the condensers, and the linings have double supports and binding screws for fixing the jets firmly in position. The brass is of the best quality and finish. There are brass registering stops and a brass curtain diaphragm, worked by rack and pinion.

The Patent Triple Rack Telescopic Front Tubes have rack and pinion adjustment to each draw, with a range of 7¾in.; 4¾-in. Plano-convex and Meniscus Compound Condensers, in bronzed cells, with bayonet catches, and of highest quality. It is fitted with double combination achromatic Lenses of extra large size, 10-in. focus with hinged flat shutters and grooves to carry the tinter glasses. A Leather Case containing six coloured glasses accompanies the Lantern. Cylinders of the following foci may be had to go along with it at the subjoined prices:—

			Dollars.
No. 1 Cylinder, Lenses 1 5/8 diameter, 6in. equivalent focus	...	...	14.00
No. 2 „ „ 2 5/8 „ 8in. „ „	...	...	21.25
No. 3 „ „ 2 5/8 „ 10in. „ „	...	...	31.25
No. 4 „ „ 3 3/16 „ 12in. „ „	...	...	40.00
No. 5 „ „ 3 3/16 „ 14in. „ „	...	...	40.00

Each Cylinder is of the same size and slides into the rack front, and the focal length is engraved on each.

The Lantern is quoted to be supplied with 10-in. focus Lenses, costing £31.25, but customers may take any other focus they desire, and the difference in value will be regulated in the price, be it more or less. With these Racks there is no sticking or jamming of the tubes. Everything works perfectly smoothly, and there is complete rigidity, even when racked to the fullest extent. The large cylinder lenses give twice the amount of light of the smaller ones, and if the complete set is not taken, extra ones may at any time be added.

It is fitted with the best High-pressure Jets, scientifically adjusted and tested, giving the best results possible.

Dollars.

(49) **Price** (without Cabinet Case) **fitted as above ... 350.00**

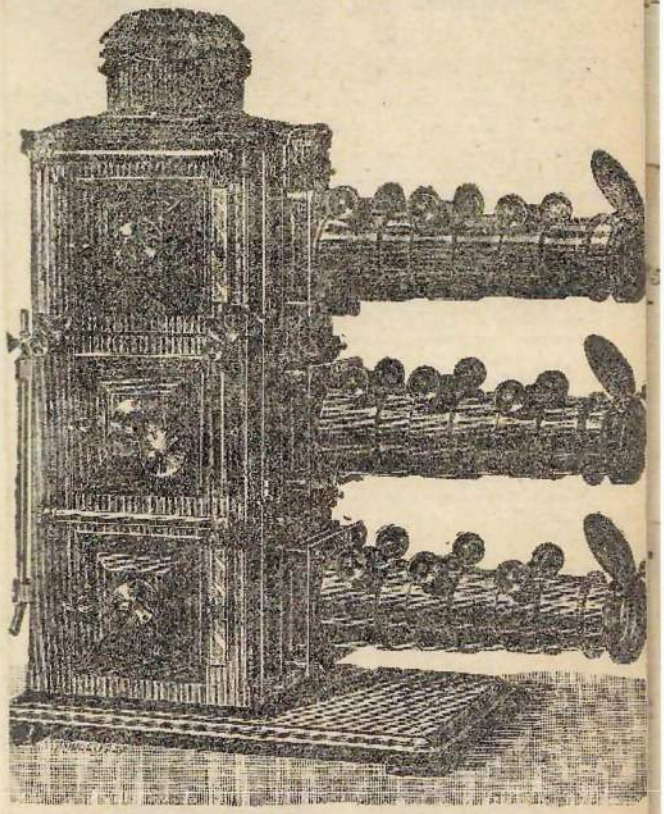
(50) **Price („ „) fitted with the New Lawson Bi-Unial Saturator, Dissolvers, and Tray 385.00**

This Lantern can be supplied in a beautiful Cabinet Case, which is strongly constructed in polished wood, brass-bound and dovetailed, with two locks and keys. The lantern slides into the bottom on a roller base, which enables it to be easily inserted and withdrawn. There is a canting top, with ornamental rising screws for elevating the instrument, and in the padded drawer there is space for the several cylinders and condensers the purchasers may order. Price, £36.00.

THE

'CLIMAX' TRI-UNIAL.

(A/5)



This Lantern is exactly the same in make and finish, and exactly the same Lenses and Fittings as the "Climax" Bi-Unial described previously.

The top Lantern detaches and fits on to a separate base-board, with spare top and dome for use as a single, and is fitted with a separate pair of handsome rail handles.

(52) Price (without Cabinet Case or Box), fitted with best High Pressure Jets, as in the Bi-Unial $580.00

Cabinet Case, with Canting Top, as described before, but for larger size and more Lenses 50.00

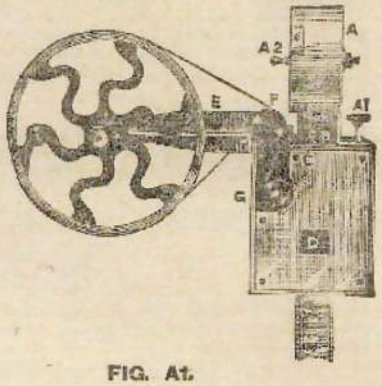
PRICE OF CONDENSERS. (A/5)

	Dollars.
4-in. diameter Plano-Convex Compound Condensers, mounted in brass cells	4.50 each
4½-in. ditto, ditto	5.50 "
4½in. diameter Plano-Convex and Meniscus Compound Condensers, mounted in brass cells	3.25 "
5½-in. ditto, ditto	9.00 "
4-in. diameter Plano-Convex Lenses, fitted into Condensers to replace broken Lenses	1.50 "
4½-in. ditto, ditto	1.75 "
4-in. diameter Meniscus Lenses, fitted into Condensers to replace broken Lenses...	2.50 "
4½-in. ditto, ditto	3.00 "
4-in. diameter Triple Condensers, mounted in brass cells...	10.00 "
4½-in. ditto, ditto	16.75 "

THE KINEOPTOSCOPE.

Patented in all Countries.

This is the distinctive name given by us to this particular member of the Cinematograph family. IT IS NOT A TOY, as its low price might lead one to suppose, but a well-finished scientific instrument, and is in use by many leading professional exhibitors and scientific gentlemen.



(A/5)

FIG. A1.

This shows the apparatus in its simplest form. All lanterns having open stages top and bottom (as the Mahogany Praestantia) can use the apparatus in this way. The picture yielded will be a small one, but apart from that the result will be quite as good as can be obtained by the most expensive apparatus.

A1 (Code—Pink.) Price as shown $50.00

(A/5)

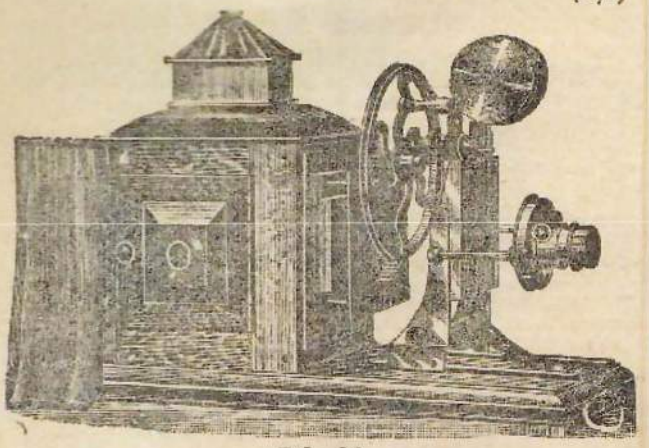


FIG. A4.

Spanish Mahogany Lantern in Cabinet Case, with short front tube and curtain at rear, fitted with Kineoptoscope on special attachment and short focus Cinematograph Lens, suited to the purposes of those who require a Cinematograph Lantern only.

A4 (Code—**Purple.**) Price $125.00

A5 (Code—**Scarlet.**) The same as above, but with the addition of an extra lens and special fronts for use as an ordinary lantern as well as a Cinematograph. Price $150.00

A6 (Code—**Crimson.**) The same as above but with long telescopic draw tubes and one cylinder lens of any focus $170.00

(4/5)

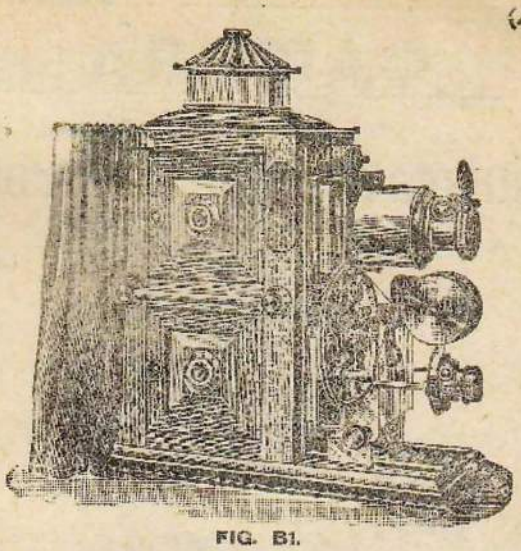


FIG. B1.

The advantages of having the Kineoptoscope fitted to a Biunial Lantern may be summarised thus :—

(a) The operator can project the title of the picture from the upper lantern, or show ordinary slides whilst another film is being placed in the machine.

(b) He may illustrate his lecture by ordinary lantern slides, shown from the upper lantern, and at suitable intervals project animated pictures from the lower. This appears to us to be the most likely method to attract audiences and make an entertainment something more than a mere show.

c) He may use the Biunial Lantern in the ordinary way, and, in a few moments, remove the bottom tubes and fix the Kineoptoscope in position, and so close the entertainment with a demonstration of "Animated Photos."

THE "MONARCH" BI-UNIAL

Is not a Cheap, flimsy cedar box, like many of those to which Cinematographs are being fixed, but it is of the Best Spanish Mahogany. It is not obtainable elsewhere, but is made in our own workshops- a statement which we are prepared to verify. It is framed and tongued together in the most approved manner. Walnut Mouldings round the base and door panels contrast pleasingly with the brighter mahogany. It is wider and higher than most "trade" lanterns, and will withstand great heat. Its high polish gives it a rich appearance, and the principles upon which it is constructed are such as to satisfy the most fastidious expert. We guarantee this lantern to be worth several pounds more than ordinary trade lanterns sold at a similar price. For further particulars see page xvii.

Code—**Blue, (B1).** This lantern has all the fittings of our best "Monarch" Bi-unial (see Catalogue) 4½in. condensers, two sets long extension tubes; one set cylinder lenses, but without jets, dissolver, or tubing. The Kineoptoscope accessories include the apparatus fixed on brackets and rails, with special short focus lens of best quality, fitted in an adjustable diaphragm, slum trough, &c. In special strong case,

PRICE, 250 DOLLARS.

IMPORTANT NOTE.

The Kineoptoscope attachment as shown in Figs. A4 and B1, and consisting of the Kineoptoscope, elevating side plates, two brass sliding rails, special short focus Cinematograph lens in adjustable sliding diaphragm, can be fitted to customers' own lanterns with little alteration. The method of affixing to Mahogany lanterns is shown in Figs. A4 and B1. For fixing to Russian Iron lanterns a wooden baseboard is necessary, on to which the Lantern and Kineoptoscope attachment are fastened. The results are then as good as with the more expensive lanterns.

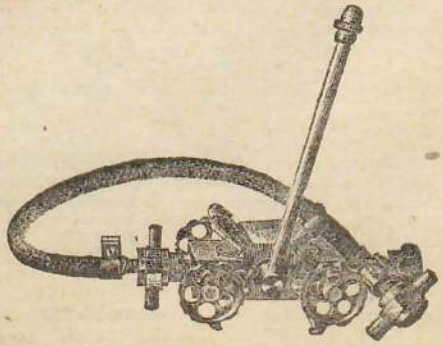
(Code Word, Black). Price of the attachment as (A5) detailed above $75.00

In addition to lanterns, various accessories and optional extras were included, such as the High Pressure Dissolving Key, which was the 'result of years of experience'. It was a lever-operated tap that reduced the gas to one limelight while increasing it to the other. This kind of device was already fitted to biunial lanterns by several other makers (Fig 1).

HIGH PRESSURE DISSOLVING KEY.

Price 26 Dollars.

The Key is the result of years of experience, and is guaranteed to be the peer of any strictly first-class Key ever made. Whilst the majority of lanternists prefer the Low Pressure Key with Beard's Automatic Regulators, those who lean to the H.P. Key can safely purchase this, and be sure of securing the best results.



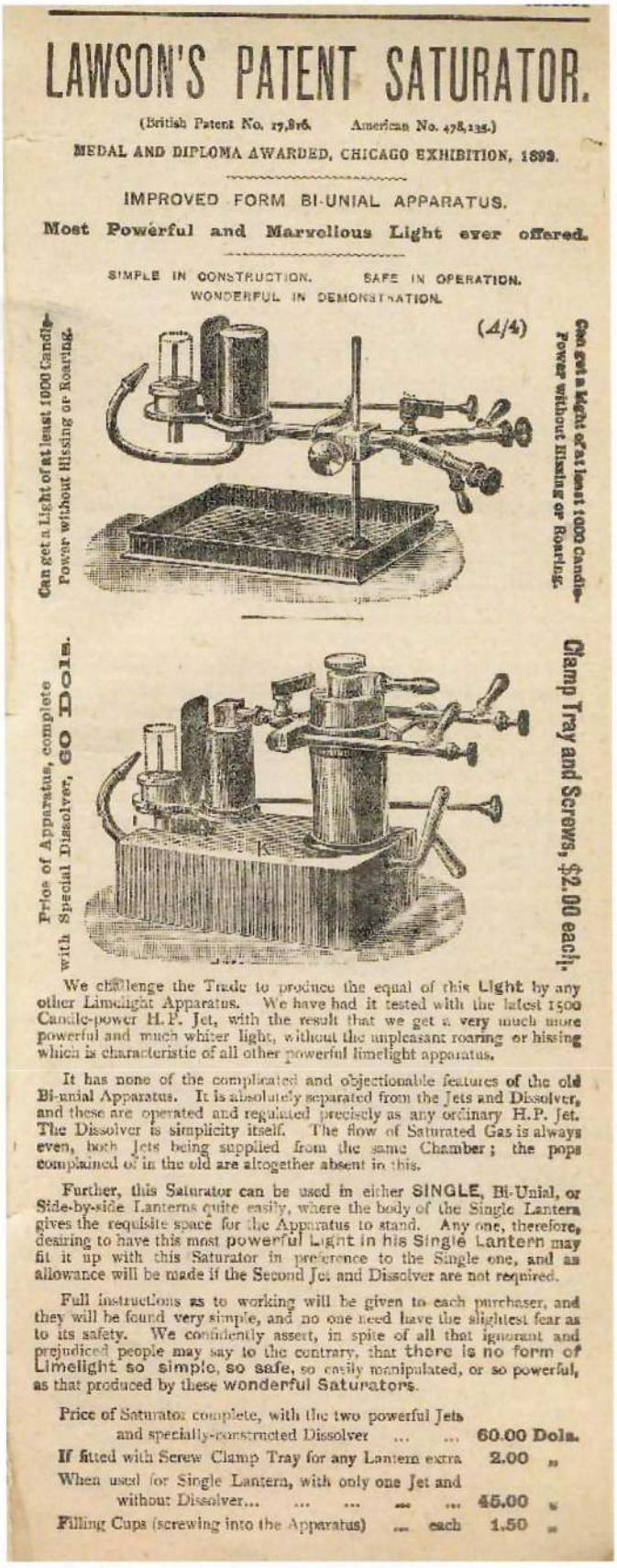
DIRECTIONS.

The Connections for the two gases are clearly indicated on the Dissolver. When made, all that is necessary is to turn the handle to an upright position and admit the Hydrogen gas; then both jets are lighted; after which admit the Oxygen gas, turn the handle so that one of the lights will be low, setting the milled head screw. By slowly turning the handle of Key the beautiful dissolving effects are secured.

Fig 1: Riley's High Pressure Dissolving Key for use with two limelight jets.

Ranges of lenses were available in various sizes and focal lengths. A page is devoted to Lawson's Patent Saturator (Fig 2), the 'most Powerful and Marvellous Light ever offered' and it was suitable for dissolving view apparatus having the dissolver built in.

A range of electric arc lamps was also offered (Fig 3), together with all the usual items required by the professional lecturer. An interesting device shown is Riley's Canting Lantern Stand (Fig 4) which must have been much better than propping up the front of the lantern with a pile of books! Reading desks and suitable lamps were available - see page 6 of this journal for illustrations of the reading lamps - and four pages were devoted to the 'Rilford' oxygen generator, the subject of patents granted to Riley and Kershaw. (Abram Kershaw established his business in Leeds, England, in 1888 and made photographic items, including lanterns and other projection equipment.)



LAWSON'S PATENT SATURATOR.

(British Patent No. 17,816. American No. 478,125.)

MEDAL AND DIPLOMA AWARDED, CHICAGO EXHIBITION, 1893.

IMPROVED FORM BI-UNIAL APPARATUS.

Most Powerful and Marvellous Light ever offered.

SIMPLE IN CONSTRUCTION. SAFE IN OPERATION.
WONDERFUL IN DEMONSTRATION.

(A/4)

Can get a Light of at least 1000 Candle-Power without Hissing or Roaring.

Can get a Light of at least 1000 Candle-Power without Hissing or Roaring.

Price of Apparatus, complete with Special Dissolver, 60 Dols.

Clamp Tray and Screws, $2.00 each.

We challenge the Trade to produce the equal of this Light by any other Limelight Apparatus. We have had it tested with the latest 1500 Candle-power H.P. Jet, with the result that we get a very much more powerful and much whiter light, without the unpleasant roaring or hissing which is characteristic of all other powerful limelight apparatus.

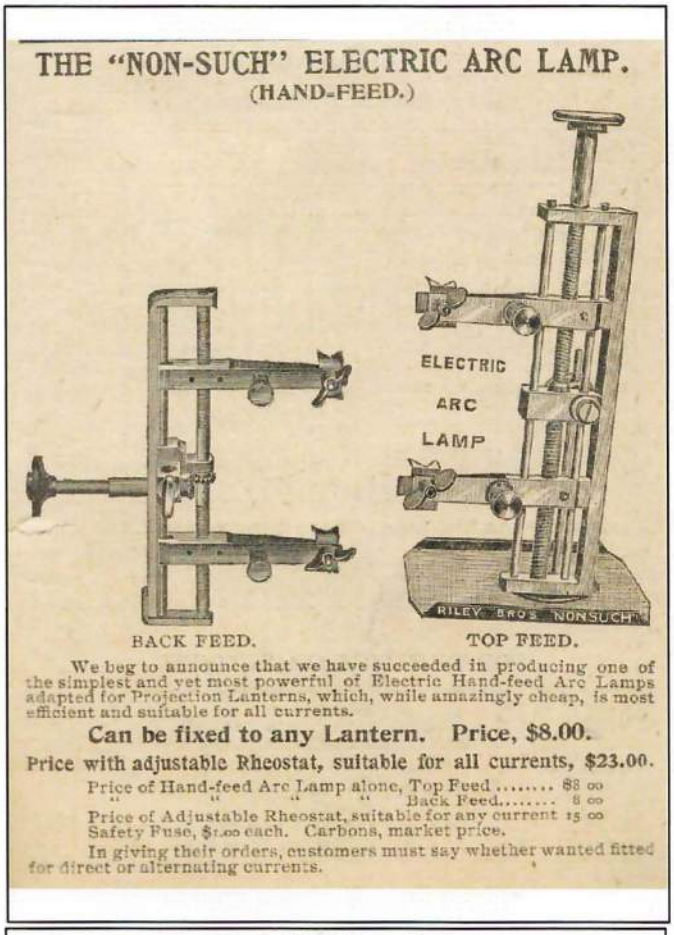
It has none of the complicated and objectionable features of the old Bi-unial Apparatus. It is absolutely separated from the Jets and Dissolver, and these are operated and regulated precisely as any ordinary H.P. Jet. The Dissolver is simplicity itself. The flow of Saturated Gas is always even, both Jets being supplied from the same Chamber; the pops complained of in the old are altogether absent in this.

Further, this Saturator can be used in either SINGLE, Bi-Unial, or Side-by-side Lanterns quite easily, where the body of the Single Lantern gives the requisite space for the Apparatus to stand. Any one, therefore, desiring to have this most powerful Light in his Single Lantern may fit it up with this Saturator in preference to the Single one, and an allowance will be made if the Second Jet and Dissolver are not required.

Full instructions as to working will be given to each purchaser, and they will be found very simple, and no one need have the slightest fear as to its safety. We confidently assert, in spite of all that ignorant and prejudiced people may say to the contrary, that there is no form of Limelight so simple, so safe, so easily manipulated, or so powerful, as that produced by these wonderful Saturators.

Price of Saturator complete, with the two powerful Jets and specially-constructed Dissolver	60.00 Dols.
If fitted with Screw Clamp Tray for any Lantern extra	2.00 „
When used for Single Lantern, with only one Jet and without Dissolver...	45.00 „
Filling Cups (screwing into the Apparatus) ... each	1.50 „

Fig 2: Lawson's Patent Saturator.



THE "NON-SUCH" ELECTRIC ARC LAMP.
(HAND-FEED.)

ELECTRIC ARC LAMP

RILEY BROS NONSUCH

BACK FEED. TOP FEED.

We beg to announce that we have succeeded in producing one of the simplest and yet most powerful of Electric Hand-feed Arc Lamps adapted for Projection Lanterns, which, while amazingly cheap, is most efficient and suitable for all currents.

Can be fixed to any Lantern. Price, $8.00.

Price with adjustable Rheostat, suitable for all currents, $23.00.

Price of Hand-feed Arc Lamp alone, Top Feed $8 00
" " " Back Feed..... 8 00
Price of Adjustable Rheostat, suitable for any current 15 00
Safety Fuse, $1.00 each. Carbons, market price.

In giving their orders, customers must say whether wanted fitted for direct or alternating currents.

Fig 3: Electric arc lamp

RILEY'S IMPROVED

Canting Lantern Stand

(A/1)

For use on a table where a Tripod is not wanted, specially adapted for Bi-Unials and heavy Lanterns. The Lantern may be raised or lowered without fear of overturning The whole is substantially made of mahogany, with quadrants and thumbscrews.

PRICE, $7.25.

Fig 4: Riley's Improved Canting Lantern stand

END NOTES:

1. Herbert, S & McKernan, L: 'Who's Who of Victorian Cinema', BFI, London 1996

For your further reading:

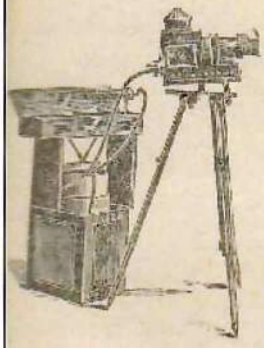
2. Gordon, Colin: 'By Gaslight in Winter', London 1980

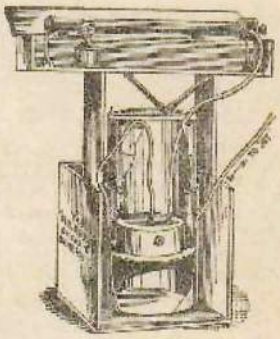
3. Willis, Dr Artemis: 'Performing Pictures: The Magic Lantern c. 1900', University of Chicago, 2020.

The "RILFORD"

OXYGEN GENERATOR.

(RILEY & KERSHAW PATENTS.)





Oxygen Produced as the Lecture Proceeds.

ABSOLUTE SAFETY.

LOW COST OF PRODUCTION.

Everything packs into 2 boxes, 34 by 6 by 6, and 14 by 14 by 16.

PRICE, $50.00.

This remarkable invention is....

INDISPUTABLY efficient.

THE action is Exceedingly Simple.

BEST of all—It makes limelight possible where it was never possible before.

WHAT IS IT?

It is an apparatus which generates the oxygen as the operator requires it. He carries with him two small boxes, and ten minutes before the lecture begins he opens them out. This takes two minutes. He lights a spirit lamp, which is placed at one end of a steel tube, and in five minutes more oxygen gas begins to be generated, and speedily fills his container. The lecturer may then commence, and the generation of oxygen will proceed just as it is required. When the lecture is over, the operator spends five minutes in packing away his lantern and generator, and has no further expense or trouble.

Does it Interest YOU?

Possibly not. You may live in a town where you can obtain cylinders of compressed gases. You may not be nervous about cylinders. You may never have had an entertainment ruined by a leaking or empty cylinder; or, on the other hand, you may, and yet prefer to take the risk. Well, we do not say that the generator is as useful to you as to some, BUT

You may live in the country, and gas cylinders have to be brought in by train. You may have to pay a few dollars to the Railway Company every time you use the lantern. The trouble and expense may have driven you to Acetylene and oil, and prohibited you from knowing any better illuminants than these. You may live in a land where cylinders are unknown; where the unwieldy gas bag has reigned supreme. You may have despaired of ever enjoying the blessings of limelight, if so,

Read this Carefully—
It has a Message for You!!!

and remember, as you read it, that it is issued by a firm whose reputation is known to all, and is now staked on the satisfactory character of this apparatus. They have spent years in perfecting a generator; they have made and patented generators which they have never issued, because they did not meet the requirements they sought; they have spent months in perfecting the apparatus now issued, and in now offering it to the public they wish it to be remembered that they have

Wide Experience

- Of the requirements the apparatus must fulfill.
- Of the points in which previous generators have failed.
- Of the conditions which are essential to success.

Does the Price Seem High?

Remember! It is all first cost. Gas Bags are as expensive, and soon wear out. Cylinders cost much in carriage; much in repairs. With these articles the cost is more or less continuous. With this apparatus it is not so. Once bought, it is **CHEAP, LASTING and EFFICIENT.**

The great advantages of the Apparatus are:

1. Portability.—The generator packs into two boxes, one of which measures 34 in. by 6 in. by 6 in., and weighs about 16 lbs.; the other measures 14 in. by 14 in. by 16 in., and weighs about 20 lbs. A larger box can be supplied to order, designed to carry the container, lantern, saturator or jet, tubing, etc.

2. Simplicity.—It is so exceedingly simple in construction that if any part should become worn or broken, or anything go wrong, the owner would be able to put matters right without the necessity of returning it to the maker. This is an immense advantage to foreign operators particularly.

3. Lasting Properties.—The retort is of steel and will stand a great amount of use. There is very little chemical action on the interior, as the oxygen cakes do not touch the tube. The container forms the subject of a separate patent and is a triumph of ingenuity. The greater part is of tin, with rubber connecting pieces. It is therefore specially adapted for use in both hot and moist climates, and the expense of renewals is reduced to a minimum.

4. Uniformity of Pressure.—This is secured by the form of the container, which allows of absolute uniformity from start to finish. The weight that can be employed is limited only by the strength of the container, so that this generator may be used with nearly every make of jet or saturator on the market. The very last inch of gas can be consumed, and the light goes out at once and does not diminish gradually.

5. Automatic Action.—This is as certain as any that can be made, and as simple. Given cakes of even size and weight and perfectly dry, and a moderately uniform consumption of oxygen, and the automatic action will be perfect. The apparatus can be used just as well without the automatic action, and the lamp can be moved by hand in an instant if required.

6. Ease of Manipulation.—The unpacking and adjusting of the apparatus occupies a couple of minutes, there are practically no loose parts. The cakes are inserted all at once into one long retort. An extra retort is provided, and this can be fixed in position whilst the jet is burning. Once the cakes are inserted and the lamp lit, only occasional attention is required. The retorts are emptied and re-charged in two or three minutes.

7. Reliability.—A large wash bottle is provided, and the gas can thus be thoroughly purified. A check valve enables the operator to work without any fear of back pressure. The first cake generates in about five minutes after the lamp is lit.

8. Safety. The method adopted in our system secures perfect safety. It may be truly said that there is less danger in working it than any other form of limelight. There is only one outlet, too, and therefore practically no risk of leakage.

9. Economy.—What cakes are not used can be removed and used again. You may insert eight cakes, but if four only are used, the others may be removed and used afterwards, hence there is no waste. There is no expense like that of sending cylinders to be re-filled and repaired, etc., no risk like that of finding the cylinders half empty. Six cakes will last at least an hour, and the cakes cost 5c. each. Chlorate of Potash and Oxide of Manganese can be obtained everywhere, and the operator can easily make his own cakes if he wishes.

What is the Conclusion of the whole matter?

That gas bags and pressure boards are no longer required even abroad.

That costly cylinders need not be purchased or loaned.

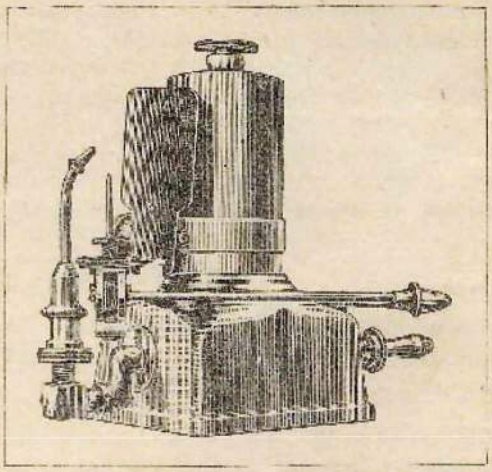
That the blessings of limelight may be experienced by those who have hitherto been compelled to rely on oil lamps, acetylene and the like.

That an absolutely safe illuminant is at the command of operators.

Price of the Rilford Oxygen Generator, as above described, with two retorts in wooden cases, complete, **$50.00**

Oxygen Cakes, 5c. Each.

The "Rilford" Oxygen Generator and the "Lawson" Saturators.



As intimated previously, the Generator can be used with almost every kind of jet and saturator on the market, the exceptions being possibly those jets where to obtain the maximum light a very extraordinary pressure of gas is required. The apparatus works best, and at the least cost, however, with the Lawson Saturator. The possessor of the Generator and Saturator is entirely independent of coal gas or hydrogen in any form. He carries his complete equipment with him, and produces a light of intense power at a most trifling cost. The consumption of oxygen, when the Saturator is used, is about one-fourth less than if a blow-through jet is employed, and the light given is far superior.

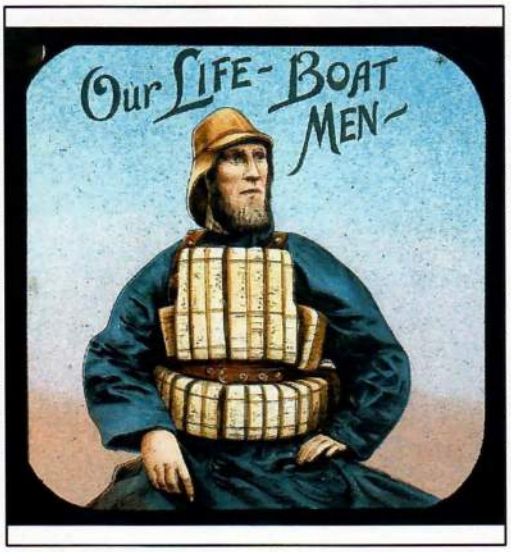
Price of the "Rilford" Oxygen Generator and "Lawson" Saturator, purchased together, with 25 cakes, - - - - - - - - - **$75.00**

NOTE. This Apparatus is useful only for Single Lanterns, not generating gas fast enough for *Bi-Unials*.

Toy Advertising

David Evans discovered a small collector's item

Twenty-five years or so ago we came across a rather attractive diecast model T Ford van (truck in USA) by Lledo, sign written with a Royal National Life-Boat Institution logo. Lledo was a British manufacturing company founded in 1982 by Matchbox co-founder Jack Odell, and Burt Russell and based in Enfield, England. The factory produced mainly die-cast scale model commercial vehicles, and also cars, from 1983 to 1999, when the company went into bankruptcy.



Lledo set out to specialise in replicating early Matchbox series styles, particularly the Models of Yesteryear range. Odell and Russell bought machinery from the Universal company, which had purchased the Matchbox plant and shipped it to Macau. The tooling they purchased was re-shipped back to Enfield, England where in April 1983 the new "Days Gone" range was launched. The name is a nice continuation of Matchbox's nostalgic "Yesteryear" theme. Lledo being, of course, Odell backwards!

The first Lledo models appeared on the market in early 1983. These were a horse-drawn tram, a horse-drawn milk float, a horse-drawn delivery van, a stagecoach-like omnibus and a horse-drawn fire engine.[4] One of the more popular models was the Ford Model T van introduced later in the year.

The feature that attracted us was the poster attached to the body of the little truck which advertises a magic lantern show!

The poster states that a lantern lecture will take place at The Hut, Berwick St. John (Wiltshire, England) on Friday 9th March (1923), the lecturer being Major M. Rawlence, D.S.O.

Major M Rawlence, D.S.O., was a British Army officer, noted for his service during World War I and his later involvement with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) as an honorary secretary.

Key details:

. **Military Service:** He held the rank of Major (initially Temporary Captain, then Acting Major) and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (D.S.O.). His D.S.O. was likely awarded during World War I, a period when many such honours were given for distinguished war efforts.

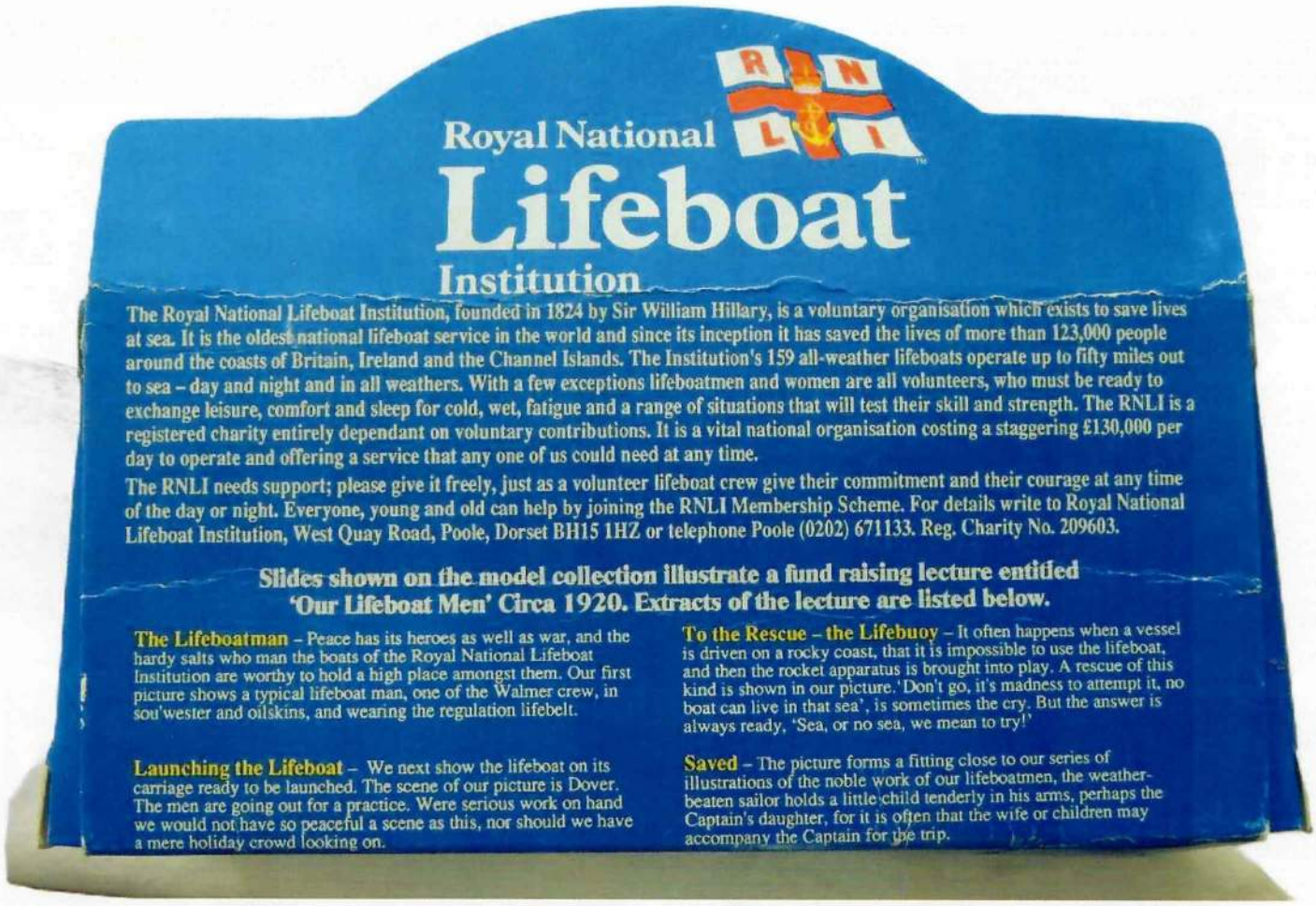
London Gazette Entry: A supplement to The London Gazette on July 16, 1918, listed "Capt. M. Rawlence, D.S.O." as being an acting Major.

RNLI Involvement: After his military service, he served as an honorary secretary for the RNLI at Salisbury. He was mentioned in the RNLI's "Obituary of the Years of the War, 1939 to 1945" publication, indicating he passed away during that period.

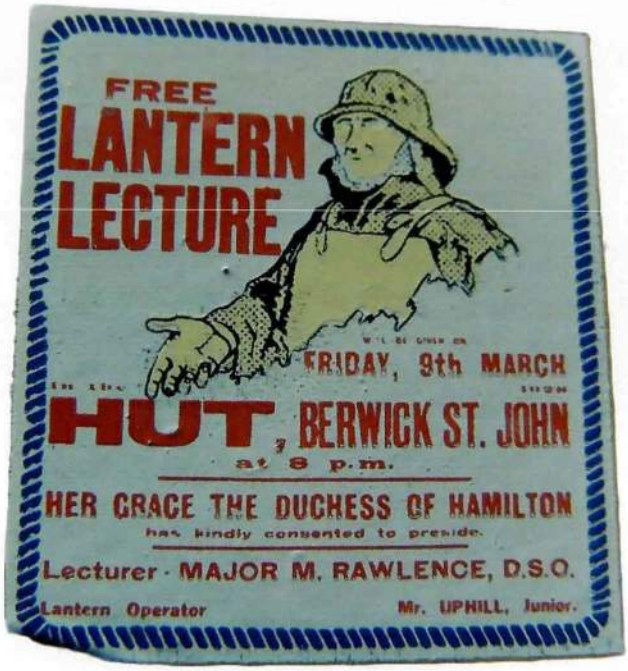
The lantern operator is shown to be 'Mr. Uphill, Junior'.

Internet research resulted in the discovery of Mr. Tom Uphill, who was a lantern operator in the first few years of the 20th Century. He emigrated to BC, Canada shortly after 1900 and became a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Ferney, BC. He would not have been available to operate a lantern in 1923, but the poster mentions 'Junior'. Might Mr. Uphill Junior have been the son of the Canadian MLA? We shall probably never know!

Most of us are probably familiar with the Primus Junior Lecture Series set of Our Life-Boat Men, produced by W Butcher & Sons from 1900 up to the early 1930s. These chromo-lithographic slides were immensely popular amongst domestic lantern show enthusia-

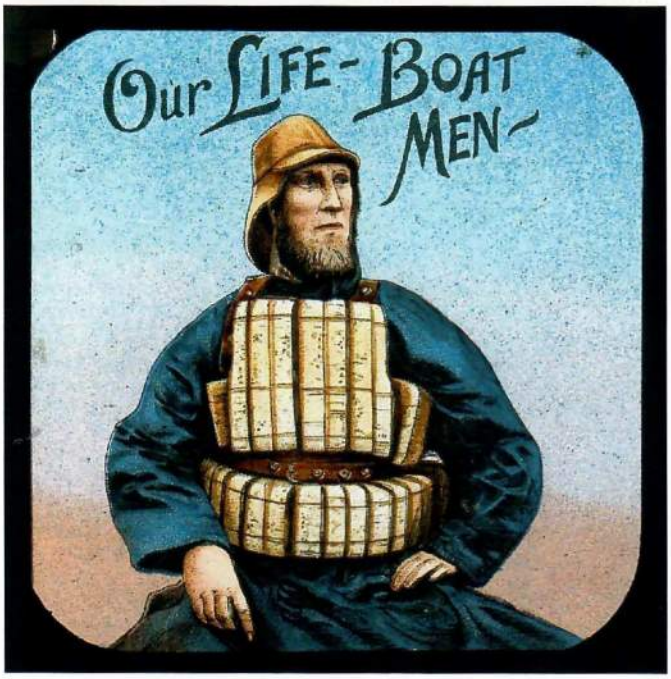

Royal National
Lifeboat
Institution
The Royal National Lifeboat Institution, founded in 1824 by Sir William Hillary, is a voluntary organisation which exists to save lives at sea. It is the oldest national lifeboat service in the world and since its inception it has saved the lives of more than 123,000 people around the coasts of Britain, Ireland and the Channel Islands. The Institution's 159 all-weather lifeboats operate up to fifty miles out to sea – day and night and in all weathers. With a few exceptions lifeboatmen and women are all volunteers, who must be ready to exchange leisure, comfort and sleep for cold, wet, fatigue and a range of situations that will test their skill and strength. The RNLI is a registered charity entirely dependant on voluntary contributions. It is a vital national organisation costing a staggering £130,000 per day to operate and offering a service that any one of us could need at any time.
The RNLI needs support; please give it freely, just as a volunteer lifeboat crew give their commitment and their courage at any time of the day or night. Everyone, young and old can help by joining the RNLI Membership Scheme. For details write to Royal National Lifeboat Institution, West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset BH15 1HZ or telephone Poole (0202) 671133. Reg. Charity No. 209603.
Slides shown on the model collection illustrate a fund raising lecture entitled 'Our Lifeboat Men' Circa 1920. Extracts of the lecture are listed below.
The Lifeboatman – Peace has its heroes as well as war, and the hardy salts who man the boats of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution are worthy to hold a high place amongst them. Our first picture shows a typical lifeboat man, one of the Walmer crew, in sou'wester and oilskins, and wearing the regulation lifebelt.
Launching the Lifeboat – We next show the lifeboat on its carriage ready to be launched. The scene of our picture is Dover. The men are going out for a practice. Were serious work on hand we would not have so peaceful a scene as this, nor should we have a mere holiday crowd looking on.
To the Rescue – the Lifebuoy – It often happens when a vessel is driven on a rocky coast, that it is impossible to use the lifeboat, and then the rocket apparatus is brought into play. A rescue of this kind is shown in our picture. 'Don't go, it's madness to attempt it, no boat can live in that sea', is sometimes the cry. But the answer is always ready, 'Sea, or no sea, we mean to try!'
Saved – The picture forms a fitting close to our series of illustrations of the noble work of our lifeboatmen, the weather-beaten sailor holds a little child tenderly in his arms, perhaps the Captain's daughter, for it is often that the wife or children may accompany the Captain for the trip.

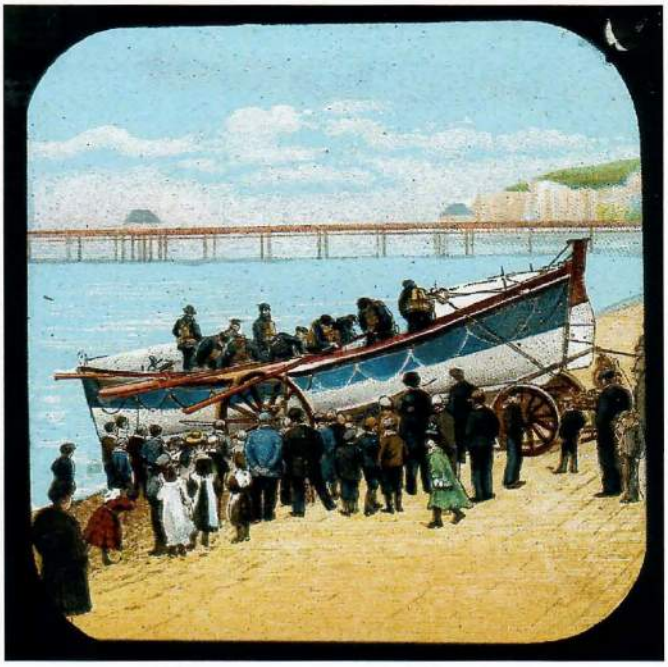
Above: The back of the model's box.

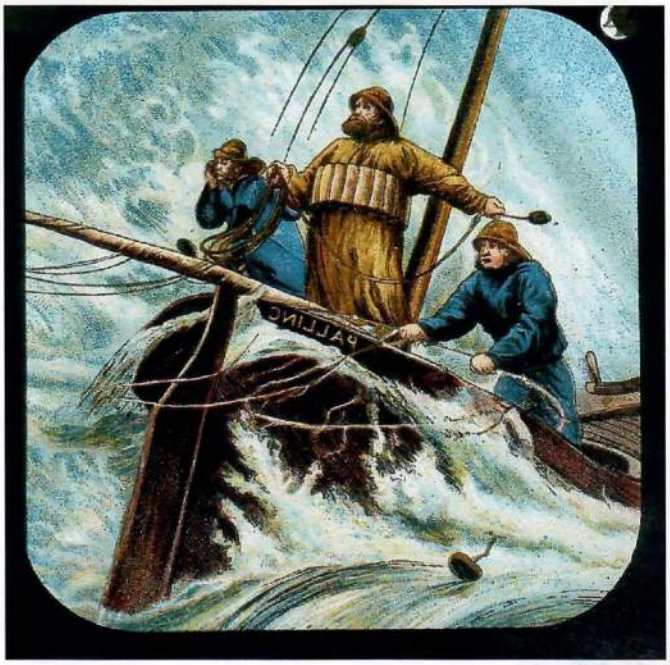


sts, and, it seems, amongst professional operators too, though the image quality was not of the best.

In case you have not come across this particular set, we take the opportunity to include them here. We may assume that Major Rawlence's presentation included other items beside this set, as otherwise the show would have terminated rather quickly!


Our Life-Boat Men




PULLING

OUR LIFEBOATMEN.

(1) **Title—The Lifeboatman.**—Peace has its heroes as well as war, and the hardy salts who man the boats of the Royal Lifeboat Institution are worthy to hold a high place among them, for they are ever ready to risk their lives in the endeavour to save their fellows from a watery grave. They fight with sturdy pluck and perseverance against the wild waves, the stormy winds that would drive some gallant ship to destruction; but, unlike the soldier, they fight to save life, not to destroy it. All honour then to our lifeboat men! Our first picture shows a typical lifeboatman, one of the Walmer crew, in sou'wester and oilskins, wearing the regulation lifebelt.

(2) **Launching the Lifeboat.**—And we next show the lifeboat on its carriage ready to be launched. Some 300 of these boats are maintained by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution on the coasts of the United Kingdom at an annual cost of about £30,000, the average cost of a boat, with station and appliances, being £1,050, and its average cost of maintenance £100. Over 40,000 lives have been saved by the Institution since its first foundation in 1824, and surely a nobler cause never called for public support. The scene of our picture is Dover. The men are going out for a practice. Were serious work on hand we should not have so peaceful a scene as this, nor should we have a mere holiday crowd looking on.

(3) **The Lifeboat on its way to the Wreck.**—There is a ship on the sands—or it is driven on to a rocky shore—the wind is blowing big guns, the air is full of driving spray, and the cry, "Man the lifeboat!" is heard above the howling of the storm in the streets of the fishing village or seaport town. The boat is launched from its carriage into the surf, sometimes after being dragged a long distance by a team of horses, or it may run down a patent slip-way direct from the boat-house. Then begins the battle with wind and wave, and we have such a picture as is here shown, great waves, blinding spray, and in the teeth of the gale the lifeboat slowly making its way towards the doomed ship. This is a "self-righting" boat. All the boats are carefully tested before being sent to their stations, but sometimes one will capsize, as happened on the Lancashire coast a year or two ago, when a number of brave fellows lost their lives.

(4) **Palling Boat—Throwing the Lifeline.**—Our next picture shows the "British Workman" lifeboat stationed at Palling, on the Norfolk coast. The boat has approached the wreck, and the coxswain is seen in the act of throwing the "lifeline," by means of which communication is established with the shipwrecked crew. It is now that the hardest part of the work commences, for unless the boat be most skilfully handled, she runs great risk of being knocked to pieces against the sides of the very vessel whose crew she is trying to save, and it is no easy task to get the rescued men safe on board amid the storm and fury of the tempest. This boat was launched by the late Earl of Shaftesbury in September, 1870, and has been instrumental in saving many ships and lives on the Norfolk coast.

(5) **Joseph Cox, Coxswain of the "Hope."**—Our next picture illustrates a stirring story of lifeboat heroism. On a certain stormy winter day at the end of December, an Austrian barque, the "Pace," was driven on to the rocky coast of North Devon, near the little fishing village of Appledore. The lifeboat, aptly named the "Hope," was manned by her gallant crew, under command of their brave old coxswain, Joseph Cox, and launched into a terrific surf. The crew behaved nobly. The boat at

times was as upright as a ladder against a wall, but they at last managed to reach the wreck, and made fast to her. The crew at first declined to leave the ship, with the exception of a boy, who jumped safely into the boat. Presently eight others followed but missed the boat: all but one, however, were safely picked up. Then a tremendous sea caught the boat, and she was dashed against the vessel, her rudder lost, and Cox was severely bruised. The remainder of the crew of the vessel would not leave her, and the nine rescued were got safely to land. But the brave old coxswain was not satisfied; he called for another crew, and again started for the wreck, his son steering the boat with an oar. Just as they reached the vessel his son was swept overboard by a tremendous sea. The boat broached to, and the waves caught her broadside and rolled her over, the whole crew being thrown into the surf. They managed to regain the boat, but old Cox had drifted away some distance, and was finally picked up almost exhausted, the men having saved only three oars with which to propel the boat. The old coxswain's bravery was suitably rewarded in several ways. His little sitting room boasted three framed certificates from the National Lifeboat Institution, who also presented him with a silver medal with clasps, while the Emperor of Austria sent him a Silver Cross of Merit of the Order of Francis Joseph.

(6) The Wreck of the Norham Castle.—Another stirring story of lifeboat heroism is connected with the wreck of the Norham Castle in March, 1883. The vessel had had a record voyage home from Java—a hundred days' fair weather sailing—but a heavy gale came on as she entered St. George's Channel, and as night fell she was driven full on the rocks in Cymeran Bay, between Holyhead and Anglesey. Three times during the succeeding day did the lifeboat try to reach her and rescue the poor fellows who hung on to the rigging for dear life, but they returned baffled and disabled. The Holyhead boat, however, during the next night succeeded in getting to the wreck, and were met with a feeble cry from the rigging, "For God's sake don't leave us this time!" "No, no," was the brave reply, "we will either take you away or drown with you." The poor fellows were utterly exhausted, and half dead with cold and exposure, and it took time for the twenty to drop into the boat. This is the incident shown in our picture. One man was left dead in the rigging, but the remainder were safely got to land, though the lifeboat herself had a narrow escape on her way back.

(7) To the Rescue—the Lifebuoy.—If often happens when a vessel is driven on a rocky coast that it is impossible to use the lifeboat, and then the rocket apparatus is brought into play. By this means a light line is thrown to the vessel, and a hawser carried from the rigging to the shore. A lifebuoy is suspended from this by a running block, and the crew is thus hauled across the raging surf to terra firma. A pathetic incident of a rescue of this kind is shown in our picture. The weather-beaten sailor holds a little child tenderly in his arms, perhaps the captain's daughter, for it often happens, especially on small coasting vessels, that wife or children may accompany the captain for the trip.

(8) Saved!—The picture forms a fitting close to our series of illustrations of the noble work of our lifeboat men, and needs no comment. All around the coasts of our sea-girt islands, "when the stormy winds do blow," the work goes on, and whenever the services of the lifeboat are called for, a crew of sturdy volunteers is always ready for the task. "Don't go, it's madness to attempt it, no boat can live in that sea," is sometimes the cry. But the answer is always ready, "Sea or no sea, we mean to try!"

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Call for Presenters

As you will be aware, our 2026 Convention is taking place in Ontario, Canada this coming April. We are looking for additional presenters to take part during the Convention. If you have a pet subject you would like to share with Convention attendees, please contact Janelle Blankenship at

blankenship.office@gmail.com

who will be delighted to hear from you. The subject matter could be anything related to our Society's favorite subjects, workshops, demonstrations or whatever you would like to present.

Please consider contributing your specialist subject to what will be an amazing experience!

Election of Officers

Our Society has a board of directors who double as Society officers, and every two years they come up for re-election to comply with the Society's by-laws. This year we are seeking the following officers:

President - this officer can serve for up to four years and then must be replaced. Karl Link has served his allotted term.

Secretary - Ron Easterday has served in this capacity for many years and has asked to be allowed to stand down in 2026.

Treasurer - Again, Ron has asked to stand down from this role.

If you would like to volunteer to take on any of these positions, or would like to nominate someone else for them, please contact Ron Easterday at

rleasterday@comcast.net

If you nominate someone else, please check with them to make sure they are willing to stand!

The Purposes of The Society shall be:

To establish an organization of people and entities interested in the collection, possession, conservation, restoration and maintenance of Magic Lanterns, Lantern Slides and related materials;

To encourage members to share their knowledge of Magic Lanterns, Lantern Slides and related materials with any interested persons or entities;

To coordinate research, catalogue material and disseminate information about the history, uses, development and preservation of Magic Lanterns and Lantern Slides; and

To promote exhibitions and/or shows utilizing Magic Lanterns, Lantern Slides and related equipment, in known methods of use in as historically accurate a manner as possible.

Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada (abbreviated to MLS herein) and Editorial Policy.

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Note: As a Society, MLS does not give valuations nor takes responsibility for advice or guidance, nor implies any form of guarantee for the accuracy or consequences arising from information so given.

The Magic Lantern Calendar

Events

Nov. 22 & 23, 2025, ***A Gothicly Grand Magic Lantern Christmas,*** fantastical images and enchanting story telling experiences with Jeremy and Carolyn Brooker, Charles Dickens Museum, 48-49 Doughty Street, London WC1N 2LX, England.

Dec. 6, 2025, ***A Grand Victorian Spectacular!*** Sarah Lawrence and Martin Gilbert present Christmas Dissolving views as part of a Charity Victorian Spectacular, Charlton House, London SE7, England.

Dec. 6, 2025, ***A Gothic Christmas***, Jeremy and Carolyn Brooker present a Victorian Magic Lantern Show at Guys Hospital Chapel, King's College, London SE1 1UL, England.

Dec. 7, 2025, ***The Magic Lantern Show,*** in conjunction with the exhibition *Dissolving Views: Magic Lantern Performance,* Dawn Elliott and Joel Schlemowitz present a program of magic lantern entertainments, Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35 Ave., Astoria NY 11106.

Dec. 8, 2025, ***Victorian Christmas,*** featuring slides from the 19th and 20th century alongside modern slides, with Jeremy and Carolyn Brooker, Florence Nightingale Museum, 2 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EP, England.

Dec. 13, 2025, ***Hands-on History: Children's Magic Lantern Show,*** a unique afternoon of play with Victorian replica and original toys and children's magic lantern show performances, King Manor Museum, 150-03 Jamaica Avenue, Queens, NY 11432.

Dec. 15, 2025, ***Christmas Magic Lantern Show,*** featuring Dr. Nick Hiley, Salvation Army Hall, Alma Parade, Scarborough YO11 1SJ, U.K.

Through 2025, ***Project Space Residency,*** featuring Melissa Ferrari, Visual Studies Workshop, 31 Prince Street, Rochester, NY 14607.

Jan. 25, 2026, ***2026 Annual General Meeting,*** Magic Lantern Society (UK), Musical Museum, Brentford, London, England.

Apr. 23-26, 2026, ***21st International Convention of the Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada,*** Toronto, CA. Save the Date – more information coming soon!

Exhibits

Through Dec. 28, 2026, ***Im Zauber Des Lichts, Bilderwelten der Latera Magica,*** an overview of children's slides production in Germany with examples from the beginnings in the 1780s to the 1930s, with children's lanterns from the same period, with their boxes, Freilichtmuseum Hessenpark, Laubweg 5, 61267 Neu-Anspach, Germany.

Through Dec. 29. 2025, ***Im Zauber des Lichts – Bildrewelten der Laterna Magica: Magic Lantern and Toy Lantern Slide exhibition,*** Freilichtmuseum Hessenpark, Laubweg 5, 6126 Neu-Anspach/Taunus, Germany.

Through Mar. 22, 2026, ***Dissolving Views: Magic Lantern Performance,*** presenting a rare triunial from the Museum collection and dissolving view slide sets and a video by filmmaker/lanternist Joel Schlemowitz, Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave, Astoria NY 11106.

Online

Magic Lantern Research Group, Learn about, collaborate on academic research. Monthly on Zoom, Contact Terry Borton: